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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CHATHAM, GILLINGHAM, ROCHESTER, STROOD, RAINHAM & DISTRICT

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Issue No 127
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Helping you make
the right choice

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COUNCIL REVEALS 'BUDGET FOR ALL'

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■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

COUNCIL moneymen have outlined town hall spending plans for their £380 million annual budget and promised to "benefit everyone in Medway".

The budget includes £700,000 on providing more car-parking places in Chatham, Strood and Gillingham; £200,000 on more youth facilities; and £100,000 on pothole repairs.

Nearly £150,000 will be spent on staging festivals across the towns, while the same amount will be invested in allotments.

Medway Council deputy leader and finance boss Alan Jarrett said: "This is a sustainable budget in a challenging economic climate, but which builds on the excellent policies that the Conservatives have introduced in Medway."

Proud

The 2010/11 financial year budget was revealed on Thursday, February 25, along with next year's council tax rates, which have gone up by 2.45 per cent.

The increase means residents living in an average band D property will pay £1,119.15 – up £130 on the 2009/2010 figure.

Cllr Jarrett said he was proud to be able to deliver the lowest council tax increase in Kent.

"Year on year we deliver a budget that allows us to set council tax for homeowners at less than other councils and we have done it again by delivering a budget for all," he said.

"We have managed to do this while ensuring

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TREES FACE THE AXE

Work began this week to cut down more than a dozen horsechestnut trees in the centre of Chatham to make way for the new bus terminal.

Protestors had hoped to save the healthy trees, but the felling marked an end to weeks of pressure.
For the full story, see page 2.



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NEWS EDITOR: Simon Robinson 01303 817185
 GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032

WEBSITE: www.yourmedway.co.uk
 TELEPHONE ADVERTISING: 01303 817110

FAX: (Advertising) 01303 817002

EMAIL: Editorial: yourmedway@kosmedia.co.uk. Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

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Felling begins after bus station plan is approved

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

CONTRACTORS have begun chopping down more than a dozen horse chestnut trees to make way for a new town centre bus terminal.

Work began at The Paddock, Chatham, last week. A total of 18 trees are to be cut down in The Paddock and the neighbouring Riverside Gardens after local pressure groups and associations failed in their bid to save them.

Medway Green Party's Paul Cumming-Benson said: "Action like this is usually reserved for dying and diseased trees. Medway Council has made an exception, by sentencing 18 healthy, mature, well-loved trees to death. Trees are in the frontline and once they are gone, green space can easily be taken over and developed."

An Open Spaces Society official said: "This central Chatham gem is the only notable green space which gives relief from the dense urban complex of bricks and mortar and glass.

"The site is special for people passing through, who are sheltered from the sun by trees which are of size to feature as monuments in themselves."

Frindsbury and Wainscott Community Association also hit out at the decision to chop the trees down. A spokesman said: "We regret wholeheartedly the ignoring of public opinion in this matter."

The bus terminal proposals were approved by Medway Council's planning committee last month, paving the way for work to start on the Globe Lane development.

The approval came after years of deliberation, confusion and opposition to the location, size, design and environmental impact of the plans.



FIRST CUT: Approval of the planned bus station has condemned 18 trees at The Paddock

Original plans for the bus station would have seen more than 30 trees felled.

Medway Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers said he was delighted the application had finally been approved.

He said: "This is very important to Chatham's future. In the years ahead, Chatham centre and the waterfront will see huge benefits from Medway's programme of regeneration – new homes, shops, cafés, bars, parkland and public squares.

"But infrastructure improvements have to come first. We have to pave the way for investment and economic growth. That's why Chatham's road system is being remodelled, improving traffic flow. That's why we're investing heavily in the retail environment."

"And it's why Chatham is getting one of the best bus stations in Britain; boosting the efficiency, appeal and future capacity of public transport in Medway."

The new terminal will replace the 1970s-built station inside the Pentagon centre.

It will operate using 'real-time' travel information. Buses fitted with global positioning systems (GPS) will be tracked to provide passengers with up to the minute arrival and departure times on display boards, backed by verbal announcements.

Plans include three public toilets at the station, including one with access for people with disabilities, and automated public toilets next to the site.

There will be a travel information centre and the White House on Riverside Gardens will be refurbished as a base for bus drivers.

Regeneration boss Robin Cooper said: "We can say goodbye to one of the worst bus stations in Britain at the Pentagon and provide a welcoming experience for the 60,000 passengers a week who get on and off buses in Chatham."

"This is very good news for the bus travellers of Medway."

yourmedway NEWS IN BRIEF

Clearly it's time to cut out the jargon

AN INDUSTRY jargon buster will share his tips on clearer English at a free talk next week.

Nigel Grant will be hosting the event at Chatham library, where he will use his business expertise to clarify confusing "officialsese".

The former English teacher now runs a communication company, helping councils, companies, charities and government departments to write more clearly.

He said: "The talk covers many aspects. People often fall victim to poor communication and unclear writing."

To book a place, call 01634 337799.

TICKETS for Will Young's summer concert at Rochester Castle sold out within hours after going on sale on Monday say organisers.

St Margaret's ceiling back to former glory

A 15th CENTURY church has had its decorative ceiling repaired as part of extensive restoration work.

St Margaret's Church in Rainham received a grant from the Rochester Bridge Trust and the English Heritage Lottery Fund for the work.

The decorative ceiling, clock tower and the ancient timbers required extensive and maintenance work.

Tony Andrews, of the restoration committee, said: "St Margaret's plays an essential role serving a parish of more than 30,000."

Sue Threader of Rochester Bridge Trust said: "St Margaret's is a unique site."

EXPERTS are investigating after part of the ancient outer wall around Rochester Castle collapsed during storms at the weekend.

Centre's celebration of World Book Day

YOUNGSTERS are all set to cook up a storm to celebrate World Book Day tomorrow (Thursday).

Burnt Oaks Children's Centre is marking the literary landmark by running a cooks and books session.

Parents and the youngsters, all aged under five, will read The Little Red Hen before baking fresh bread rolls in the kitchen.

Medway's children's services boss Clr Les Wicks said: "Our children's centres are doing a brilliant job."

The centre in Richmond Road, Gillingham, is running the free sessions between 9.20am and 10.30am.

Find out more on 01634 334344.

E.ON has revealed plans to pipe waste CO₂ from its new coal-fired power station at Hoo hundreds of miles to empty North Sea oilfields.

Greens back campaign against the fly-tippers

■ BY MATTHEW BEECH

YOURMEDWAY's crusade against fly-tippers has gained huge support during the past week – including from Medway council and green campaigners.

Kent Green Party has put its weight behind our campaign which aims to tackle the "inexcusable" and illegal dumping of waste.

Party spokesman Steve Dawe said: "Fly-tipping must be stopped – it is totally unacceptable.

"It blights the countryside and is extremely unpleasant, especially if it contains any biological waste."

Kent Green Party believes local authorities are not doing enough to encourage good recycling and waste habits.

Mr Dawe said: "Fly-tipping is inexcusable but a lot of the waste should be collected from the doorsteps.

"Kent district councils offer slightly different recycling and reuse services. They could do more to help, such as by having common systems for households and small businesses.

"Not all councils are collecting glass, plastics or things such as batteries. These can all be collected better."

A scheme to reduce the amount of construction waste should be introduced according to Mr Dawe, which would then help reduce by up to 30 per cent the rubbish that ends up blighting the countryside.

"Certain types of building waste can be reused," he said. "We could use a scheme such



NO EXCUSES: Kent Green Party and Medway Council have applauded our campaign – now we need your help

the Danish system where it is put back into the building stream, reducing the waste produced by 20 to 30 per cent."

Yourmedway's fly-tipping campaign comes after the Environment Agency reported more than 100 "big" incidents and 575 "nasty" incidents of illegal dumping in Medway.

This also follows the case of 54-year-old Kevin Harrington, who was ordered to pay more than £10,000 after a blaze at a suspected fly-tipping site.

Medway Council's enforcement boss Cllr Rehman Chishti said: "Fly-tipping can present a hazard to the public, it can pollute the land and it looks unsightly.

"It is a commercial crime to allow illegal busi-

nesses to make large sums of money at the expense of the community.

"Medway Council will not tolerate fly-tipping and this case highlights just how seriously we take the matter."

In response to the Environment Agency statistics, Gillingham and Rainham MP Paul Clark said: "This is disgraceful. We have given local authorities the powers to deal with fly-tipping and Medway Council is failing to curb it."

We are calling on Yourmedway readers to help bring those responsible for leaving lorry-loads of rubbish by the roadside to justice.

If you spot an instance of fly-tipping, email Yourmedway@editorial@yourmedway.co.uk.

If possible, send us a picture of the rubbish.

A celebration of sisterhood

WOMEN across Medway are being invited to celebrate International Women's Day this weekend.

The event, which has been running annually since 1911, honours the achievements of women and their struggles for equality.

The theme for this year's celebrations is women in the media.

On Saturday, the festivities will be running at the Pilkington building at Medway University and will include a talk from ITV Meridian newsreader Sangeeta Bhabra.

Event co-ordinator Manjit Sohal said: "International Women's Day is a great opportunity for women from all walks of life to come together and celebrate their achievements as well recognising the struggle women have gone through to get their voices heard."

For more information on the event and a full timetable of activities, click on www.medwayiwd.co.uk.



Town hall cash plans revealed

FROM FRONT PAGE

the frontline services Medway Council provides for its residents are not affected.

"We continue to have the lowest council tax bill in the whole of Kent and one that is lower than most other councils countrywide.

"And, through careful planning and cautious budgeting, we are able to continue targeting spending on better roads, services for vulnerable people, the regeneration of Medway and providing quality services for younger people."

Cllr Jarrett hit out at the Government's formula grant scheme and increased demands to find efficiencies, saying they opened up an £8m funding gap in November's draft budget.

As a result there will be "some pain", with 50-60 posts being scrapped and a potential freeze of council workers' pay awards.

The finance chief said: "We as a council provide a huge range of vital services for our residents.

"These include schools, social services, waste collection, housing and roads, as well as the regeneration of our area.

"But when it comes to organising our budget for the next financial year we are always expected to do this with much less money than other, similar sized councils."

Planning row lands resident a £10k bill

A HOMEOWNER has been ordered to pay more than £10,000 after a long-running planning dispute with Medway Council ended up in the courts.

Christopher Spalding was fined after his two-storey extension to the front of his semi-detached house in Limetree Close, Chatham, was found to be "significantly different" from the plans he submitted.

The finished works were up to 50cm higher than approved by council planning chiefs. The roof had also not been constructed as set out in the agreed proposals.

Despite repeated requests by council bosses, Spalding failed to remove the oversized extension, and was charged with breaching the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The 45-year-old was found guilty at a hearing at Medway Magistrates' Court on January 19 and sentenced on February 15.

Spalding, who failed to appear at the sentencing, was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay costs of £350.

Medway Council's strategic development boss, Cllr Jane Chitty, said: "The extension this homeowner built clearly went above and beyond the planning permission he was granted.

"Our planners carefully consider each application to make sure it is in keeping with the area where the proposal will be built, that it does not cause unnecessary issues with neighbours and that it is safe.

"Planning law can be complicated and I would ask anybody who is considering doing any kind of building work to get in touch with our planning officers who will guide you through what is and what is not possible.

"Clearly Mr Spalding failed to work with our officers and was in breach of planning laws. Due to this disregard for the law he has now been given a hefty fine."

Spalding was granted permission for a two-storey extension to the property in 2002. It soon became clear he was building an extension that was higher than it should be at his modern semi-detached home.

After a complaint, Medway Council's planning department served Spalding with an enforcement notice requiring him stop the unauthorised work and remove it.

Spalding appealed the notice and continued building the extension, but a planning inspector dismissed the appeal in May, 2008.

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TRAGEDY: Martin Barlow died under the wheels of a bus driven by Christopher Eggleton in Catherine Street

Bus driver sped up after hitting man, court told

■ BY IAN READ

A MAN died underneath a bus after he tried to complain to the driver about his damaged truck.

Witnesses today told Maidstone Crown Court how 30-year-old Martin Barlow was run over outside his home in Catherine Street, Rochester, at just after 9pm on April 3 last year.

Driver Christopher Eggleton, 45, of Dales Street, Chatham, is in court facing charges of manslaughter and causing death by dangerous driving charges which he denies. But the driver has admitted causing death by careless driving.

Mr Barlow died as result of extensive fractures to his skull and spine. Tests revealed the builder was three times over the drink drive limit but witnesses said he wasn't drunk.

Witness Lewis Bennett, 16, was walking down Catherine Street when he saw Mr Barlow in the middle of the road banging his hands on the front window of the bus.

Mr Bennett told the court he had spoken to Mr Barlow about half an hour early. He said he was waiting for a bus so he could stop it and would the teenager help him.

Mr Bennett said: "He put his hands to stop the vehicle and it kept coming. He was sucked underneath it and dragged along."

"There were lots of people screaming and crying and being sick. It was horrible to see a man get killed like that."

"As I went towards the bus I heard shout-

ing. As he was being dragged along the road his trainers came off. His body came out from the bus opposite Jasper Avenue. The bus kept going towards Warren Wood."

Earlier neighbour Maureen Emperor told the jury that she had talked to Mr Barlow who was angry about the damage to his Mitsubishi Trojan pick-up truck.

"He said: 'I'm going to stop the next bus and take away the keys.' When I asked if he had taken the matter up with Arriva Buses he said they didn't want to know."

Mrs Emperor heard the single-decker bus coming and saw Mr Barlow running alongside it shouting at the driver.

She said: "He started banging on the bus windscreens. The bus didn't stop, it just drove on. Seconds later I saw him go under the bus – he just disappeared."

"Then the bus just tore up the road. The driver just put his foot down."

Neighbour Abigail Mack said: "Martin was really pissed off about the damage to his truck. He was determined to get it sorted."

The English teacher and mum of one feared the worst when he disappeared.

Further up the road she saw one of his trainers and a trail of blood.

She said: "There was a black mark where his trainer was scraped along the road. I saw him banging on the window to say 'Stop! Stop!' The bus slowed but kept going."

Mrs Mack said he stumbled and disappeared under the wheels.

She said: "It took me a while to realise what had happened. We ran up the road after the bus but it went extremely fast."

The case continues.

Gills boss Scally could lose licence

MAGISTRATES will decide whether Gillingham FC owner Paul Scally should be banned from driving at a hearing on Friday.

Mr Scally was supposed to appear at Canterbury Magistrates Court today after being found guilty in his absence of using a mobile phone while at the wheel of his car in Dover Docks.

A court last month ordered three penalty points on his licence, which would take him

over the threshold of an automatic six-month ban as he already has nine points.

A lawyer representing Mr Scally asked for an adjournment so he could appeal against the finding of guilt on a previous offence.

He said Mr Scally was on business in Dubai, where he now lives.

The bench said it would impose a ban in his absence if the Gills chairman failed to turn up on Friday.



yourmedway NEWS IN BRIEF

Dad's picture anger

A FATHER was banned from taking pictures of his own son in a shopping centre due to fears that he could be a paedophile.

The BBC reported that Kevin Geraghty-Shewan, from Gillingham, was challenged by security guards at a Sunderland mall after photographing his son, Ben, on a children's train ride at the Bridges shopping centre.

The Balmoral Road resident was told he could not prove the four-year-old was his son and was later questioned by a police officer.

Mr Geraghty-Shewan, 48, told the BBC: "Five or 10 minutes later a police officer asked for my name and address."

"I raised my voice, as I was getting a little annoyed by this stage, and he threatened to arrest me for breach of the peace."

"Surely these people should be able to tell the difference between the two situations – common sense was missing from the start."

The Bridges shopping centre apologised.

Yob gangs to be moved on

A DISPERSAL zone is being introduced in Lordswood, giving police the power to move on groups of yobs.

The zone has been set up after residents raised concerns about groups of troublesome teens causing anti-social behaviour.

Chief Inspector Mark Arnold said: "We will move groups on if we believe that they have been or are likely to cause anti-social behaviour. "We can also ensure that they do not return for anything up to 24 hours."

The zone, which came into operation on Monday, will run until August 31.

Most happy in Medway

THREE quarters of Medway residents are satisfied with living in the area, a survey has found.

The poll found 75 per cent of those who call the towns home are satisfied with Medway and the services available to them.

Council leader Rodney Chambers said: "The initial findings of our latest residents' opinion poll shows some positive results and indicates areas where we are doing well."

Early data from the independent poll shows that 13 per cent of residents are not satisfied with the area.

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Adams NHS centre praised by patients

A HEALTH centre in Medway has been rated as one of the best in the country after receiving top marks in a patient satisfaction poll.

The Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre was ranked in the top 20 per cent of facilities of its kind nationwide after being called 'excellent' by patients.

General manager Jane Higgins said: 'During the last year the centre has become even more popular with patients.'

'I am pleased this survey demonstrates we have been able to maintain the quality of patient care at the same time as increasing our workload.'

'Much of this increase has been as a result of the very popular cataract service, which we have been providing since April, 2009.'

Duo's drug charges after failing to stop

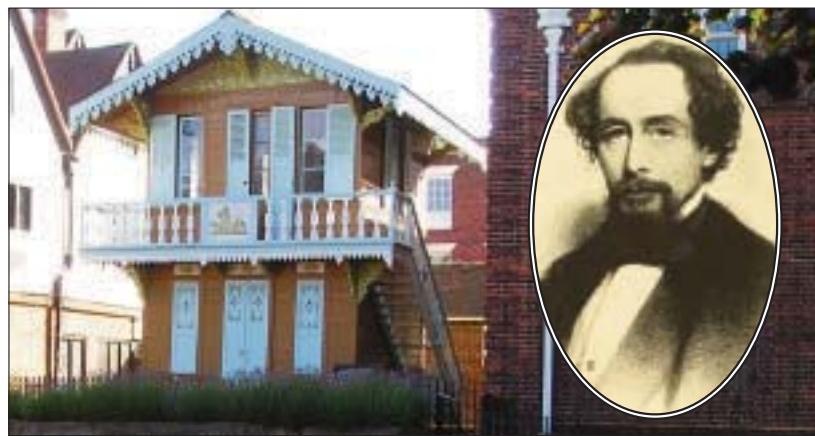
TWO Londoners have been charged with possession with intent to supply a class A drugs throughout Medway.

Rory Harrison, 20, and a 17-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, for arrested in Balmoral Road, Gillingham, on Tuesday, February 16.

The pair, from Peckham, were originally detained after failing to stop their car for police. They were both charged with intent to supply class A drugs.

Harrison is also charged with dangerous driving and failing to stop. Both have been released on bail until Friday, April 16.

They have been ordered to remain at their home addresses between 9pm and 7am daily and not to enter the county unless to attend court.



RESTORATION APPEAL: The Swiss chalet, now in the grounds of Eastgate House, was owned by Dickens

Time-ravaged chalet needs £100k repairs

CHARLES Dickens' summer chalet is in danger of falling down, unless £100,000 is raised quickly.

The Swiss chalet, which stands in the grounds of Eastgate House in Rochester, is rapidly falling into disrepair.

Dickens fans fear the wooden building – in which the writer penned literary masterpieces such as *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Great Expectations* and the unfinished *Mystery of Edwin Drood* – will soon be damaged irreversibly and have set up a restoration fund.

John Knott, from the Rochester and Chatham branch of the Dickens Fellowship, said: 'The ravages of time and weather have had a dramatic effect. The chalet is in need of urgent restoration costing well over £100,000. It is of great historical importance and has been a major tourist attraction for years. It would be a tragedy to lose it. There are so many good reasons to save it.'

The small chalet previously stood in the grounds of Gad's Hill, Higham, where Dickens once lived.

It was a present to the writer from the French actor Charles Fechter and arrived on Christmas Eve 1864 at Higham railway station, packed in 58 boxes. They contained 94 pieces which fitted together like a giant jigsaw. The building was put up at Gad's Hill by

the Dickens family, with the assistance of the Lyceum Theatre's French carpenter M Godin, during the Christmas holiday.

Dickens wrote about his present: 'It will really be a very pretty thing, and in the summer (supposing it not to be blown away in the spring), the upper room will make a charming study. It is much higher than we supposed.'

It was moved to Rochester when Gad's Hill was turned into a private school. Mr Knott said he hoped the chalet could be saved.

'All proceeds from our bicentenary celebrations will go to the restoration fund, but this unfortunately will still leave us with a considerable shortfall,' he said.

'We are therefore appealing to everyone for financial assistance to help save this most important and fragile item of such great importance to all Dickensians.'

'It is hoped the restoration of the chalet will be completed in time for the bicentenary celebrations.'

Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth in February, 1812. He moved to Chatham as a boy when his father began working as a navy pay officer in Chatham Dockyard.

If you want to help the restoration project, send cheques payable to the Rochester and Chatham Dickens Fellowship (Chalet Fund) to 27 Amethyst Avenue, Chatham, ME5 9TX.

Aim high, Banks tells designers

INTERNATIONALLY renowned designer Jeff Banks helped launch the University of Creative Arts' (UCA) networking event for alumni.

The fashion expert, who has established his own label and brands such as Warehouse, was the guest of honour at the event held in the Fashion and Textile Museum in London.

More than 100 former students attended the inaugural event, which gave alumni opportunities to network with other designers and get in touch with old friends.

The former BBC Clothes Show presenter, who received an honorary degree from UCA in 2001, gave a speech to the graduates, urging the next generation of British designers to push for the world market and challenge the likes of Gucci and Ralph Lauren.

He said: 'It's brilliant that UCA has brought its fashion alumni together for this event – hopefully the networking that goes on here will bear fruit.'

'Britain has the best design education on the planet, but our best talent goes abroad to work for the big-name, foreign design houses.'

'We need our rising stars to create their own labels, stay British and challenge the big brands in New York, Paris and Milan.'

Venessa Denza, who has worked alongside

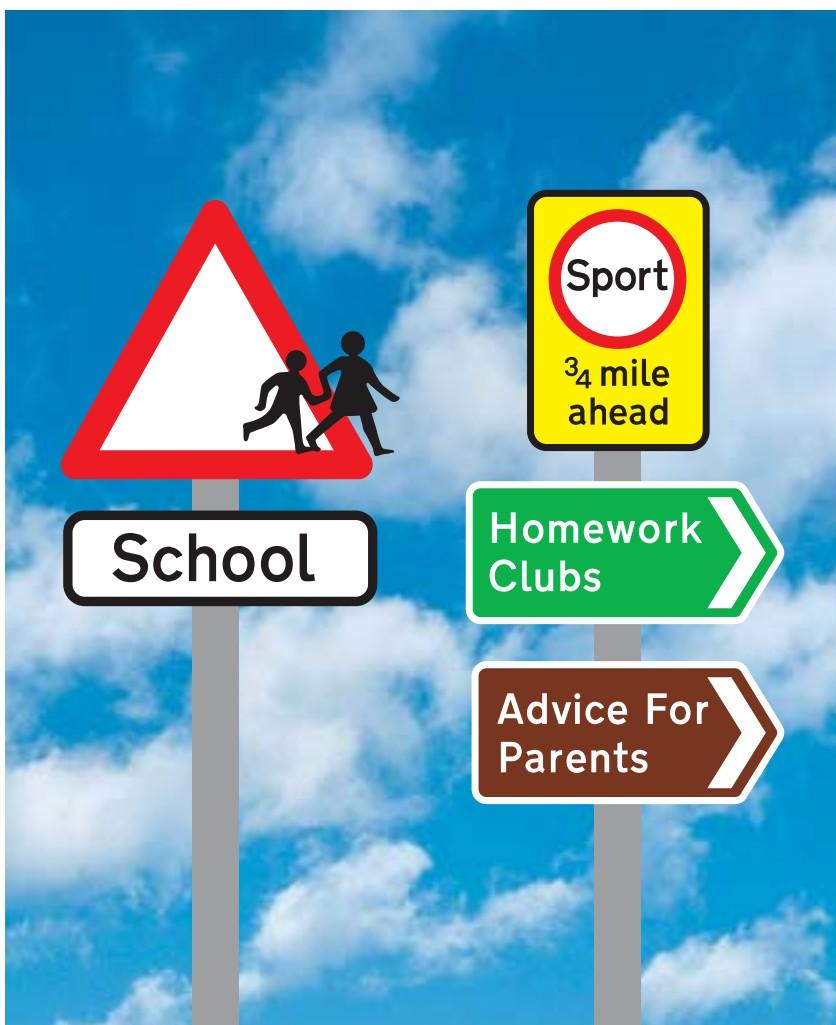


NETWORKING: Jeff Banks speaks to designers the global designer on graduate fashion week, was with Mr Banks at the event.

He said: 'It's a very good idea to bring people together to reconnect at an event like this. It was also great for people hear from Jeff, who always speaks wonderfully well.'

Clare Wolfe, who graduated in 2005 with a BA (Hons) in Fashion Design from Rochester, said: 'It is a really good idea; a great chance to see old friends; and, network.'

'It was great that Jeff Banks came along to speak to us. He was really interesting and got everyone thinking about the fashion industry from a different point of view.'



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Poster shows united front against Boris Island plan

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

COUNCIL chiefs in Medway have met with Mayor of London Boris Johnson's second in command to hand over an anti-airport dossier.

The cross-party delegation, led by council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers, gave the folder to Kit Malthouse at the Mayoral head offices before demanding that the Thames Estuary airport plans be grounded.

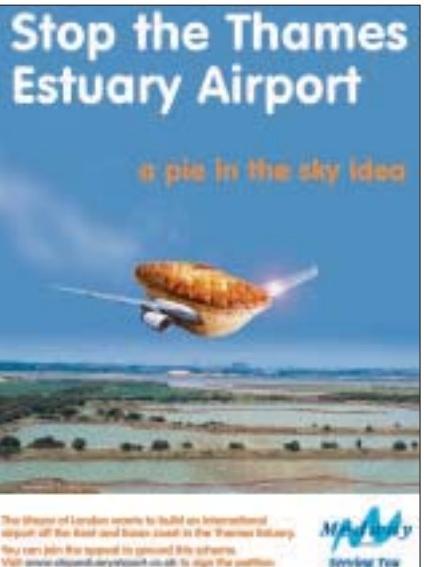
The damning dossier featured a poster showing what Medway Council, KCC, the RSPB and thousands of residents think of the proposals – pie in the sky.

The council-led coalition fear the planned airport – dubbed Boris Island – would devastate the environment in and around north Kent and turn large sections of our rural county into a concrete jungle.

Cllr Chambers said: "I have continuously said that the Mayor of London's estuary airport plans are pie in the sky."

"Now I would urge people to print this poster off from the campaign website and put it up in their house, local pub, coffee shop or even place of work to show that they echo these views."

"We went to see deputy mayor Kit Malthouse and told him residents in Kent and Medway do not want this airport."



GROUNDING: Medway Council's anti-airport poster

"We also gave him our report, which is backed by all of Medway's councillors, and ask him to make sure Doug Oakervee [the engineer behind the airport scheme] gets a copy before he

addresses the London Assembly on March 11."

Medway Labour group leader Cllr Paul Godwin said: "Boris Johnson has gone on record stating he feels an airport in our estuary would be the solution to planes from Heathrow rattling his living room windows."

"If he feels the pollution, increased traffic, noise and poor quality of life for residents are reasons not to have a third runway, then how can he support dumping an entire new airport on the residents of North Kent, just to solve his problems?"

Medway Liberal Democrat leader Cllr Maureen Ruparel also called for the airport plans to be scrapped.

"The South East of England is already overcrowded with insufficient infrastructure to support the amount of housing being forced onto it by successive governments," she said.

"It simply doesn't make sense to add one more airport with all the additional roads, premises for support businesses, additional housing and storage facilities."

The leader of the council's newly-founded Independent group, Cllr Tony Goulden, said: "It is difficult to understand Boris's obsession with this monstrous pile of sand, cement and tarmac that he wants to dump off the shore of Whitstable."

"Someone needs to tell Boris that he is only the Mayor of London – not the Lord of Kent."

• For more on the anti-airport campaign and to download a pie in the sky poster, visit www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk.

Dial A for ASBO as iPhone app names Medway

MEDWAY has been named as one of the country's largest anti-social behaviour hotspots by a new mobile phone application.

iPhone app ASBrometer ranked the area as England's 61st most troublesome town – with an anti-social behaviour (ASB) rating of 25 per cent.

The 'moderate' grade comes after 214 ASBs were handed out between 1997 and 2007.

Medway was pipped to the title of Kent's worst ASB offenders, with Thanet rated at 26.4 per cent.

ASBrometer also gives more detailed information, including the number of 'crack house closures' – one is said to have been shut down in Medway last year – and the number of acceptable behaviour contracts signed by problematic persistent offenders.

The app has been touted as an 'estate agent's worst nightmare' as it gives potential home-owners the chance to view ASB figures at the touch of a button. The app takes its information from Government website www.data.gov.uk.



BAD CALL: iPhone app offers ASB rating

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QUESTION & ANSWER

HENRY DAGG



Q & A

His next project is to create a set of musical gates for Rochester College, so **Jill Hurst** asked musician Henry Dagg what inspired him to become a sound-sculptor and how the Beatles helped him to learn the piano

Q Tell us a little about yourself

A I am a musician with a lifetime dedication to three aspects of music: composition, performing and the development of new instruments and sound-sculptures.

Q What is sound-sculpture and how did you get into it?

A Sound-sculpture can take a variety of forms, but in my work they are usually kinetic structures which produce sounds or music by visible mechanical means, often with an element of interactivity.

I began experimenting with sound at an early age, building electronic and mechanical equipment for generating and modifying sounds, later progressing to tape-manipulation and composing. Sound-sculpture was a natural progression.

Q What's the most inspiring piece of work you've undertaken and why?

A The work I've found most inspiring to date is my current commission from the English Folk Dance and Song Society, the Sharpsichord.

It's a harp which allows anyone to programme its mechanical memory to play whatever tune they want, by positioning pins in a cylinder, which is turned to play the music.

Building it was the least inspiring bit – a slow, tedious, endless grind. What's inspiring is

the quality of its tone and the process of programming it, which is a fairly slow but satisfying experience, leading to a performance which usually sends visitors into raptures.

Its universal appeal and effectiveness in performance with other musicians are the most inspiring aspects.

Q Were you brought up surrounded by music and art?

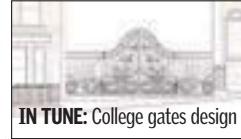
A My parents were classically trained musicians. I was trained on the cello, my sister Barbara on piano. I learnt to play the piano by ear and arranged Beatles songs as duets with her. I later took up electric bass.

The house was always full of classical music. My parents played in a wind quintet which rehearsed in our sitting room – though musical humour such as Gerard Hoffnung and Flanders and Swann were also a big influence.

Q Who are you inspired by and why?

A As a composer and musician I have always been inspired by interesting harmonic progressions typically found in the music of Rachmaninov, Bach and Delius.

John Baker, of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop, was



IN TUNE: College gates design

also a major influence and led to my joining the BBC in the hope of finding a place in the workshop.

In sound-sculpture I have been inspired by artists such as Jean Tinguely, the Baschet brothers, and the Victorian engineering vernacular best illustrated by William Heath Robinson. Harry Partch is an important influence in my instrument-building.

Q What do you do when you are not working?

A Sleep.

Q What book did you last read?

A The Blaze of Obscurity, by Clive James.

Q What music are you currently listening to?

A Chris Wood's A Handmade Life, The Quartet, Evan Parker, Robert Jarvis, and the new remix of Genesis's 1970s albums.

Q What are your goals for the future?

A To help create an appetite for and understanding of sound-sculpture in Britain, and to create a new family of electro-acoustic instruments with which to perform my own music in a live band.

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'I worked to help police, then they degraded me'

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

A FORMER diversity advisor to Kent Police who says he was stopped and strip searched just because he was black has spoken out about his ordeal.

Alioune Haynes was so furious with his treatment at the hands of police officers that he moved from Gillingham to Canada.

Now the Kent Constabulary has been forced to make an apology for the way he was stopped, arrested, handcuffed, and strip-searched outside a nightclub.

Mr Haynes was also handed £8,500 in compensation in an out-of-court settlement for the incident in 2006.

And a senior officer has admitted in a letter the treatment was "unjustified".

Ironically, just a month before the arrest, Mr Haynes had given one of several diversity talks to Kent officers about the way some of them were handling black people in the county.

And an off-duty black police officer, who was a friend of Mr Haynes, was also strip-searched after visiting the nightclub on March 25.

The officer filed an official report about the incident and two officers were due to appear before a disciplinary panel in June, 2008, but that was halted for legal reasons.

From his home in Canada, Mr Haynes told Yourmedway: "To constantly be stopped and searched, accused of stealing your own car, watching and hearing about it happening to friends, family and members of the community over a period of years is a horrible thing.

"To try to get into dialogue with the perpetrators, to try to make a difference, and to, on the one hand be congratulated by the same people, and on the other walk back out into the street and to be seen as that 'black b*****d' or whatever else they choose to refer to you as or treat you like is hard."

"To watch a black police officer humiliated in public through no fault of his own, is a difficult thing to deal with. To find out what later happened to him behind closed doors is worse."

"To actually be assaulted and strip searched without a cause other than knowing and standing up for your rights, and the colour of your skin, is a degrading experience."

Mr Haynes said he has not found Canadian police to be so biased.

The 31-year-old, added: "The police out here don't seem to have the same issues, not from what I've seen so far."



ORDEAL: Alioune Haynes received an out of court settlement for his treatment by police

"There are stories, but there are also laws that have to be obeyed. The police can be sued and so I think that helps why they don't over do it."

"I've never been stopped by a cop out here."

In his letter to Mr Haynes, Kent Police Assistant Chief Constable Allyn Thomas said: "We sincerely regret the physical and emotional injury caused to you during the arrest and subsequent strip search on March 25, 2006, and acknowledge that our actions were unjustified.

"Please accept our sincerest apologies in relation to these events and we trust that you can now put the matter behind you."

A spokesman for Kent Police added: "We have investigated the claims made by Mr Haynes and have accepted that in some areas the treatment he received was not appropriate."

"As a force we are always keen to improve the service we provide to the people of Kent, and Mr Haynes has taken part in a number of training sessions for our officers to make them better prepared for situations they may face."

"We will continue to work with all communities to help provide advice and training for staff around the issues he has raised."



ON THE UP: Applications to study law have risen

Students clamour for chance to get to grips with law

APPLICATIONS to study law at the University of Kent's Medway campus have soared by 91 per cent year-on-year.

Kent Law School Lecturer David Radlett said: "We have a fast-growing reputation, which is due in no small measure to the quality of teaching we have at the university, the high level of personal support we offer all students and also the flexible programmes on offer."

"We are also seeing some notable successes in terms of our graduates securing full training grants and other internships and studentships, which helps give them a great start in their careers in the legal profession."

Law at Medway can be studied as either a full-time or part-time degree.

Students have access to online lectures and can also attend both day and evening seminars, which allows many to fit studying around family or work commitments.

For more details about studying law at the University of Kent's Medway campus, visit www.kent.ac.uk or email D.N.P.Radlett@kent.ac.uk.

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Japanese stage homage to the English samurai

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

AN EPIC three-hour theatre production on the life of Gillingham man Will Adams becoming the first Englishman to land in Japan could take to a Kent stage.

The world premiere of the show took place in Japan and was attended by Medway councillor Sue Haydock, who has become the honorary mayor of Yokosuka, which is twinned with Gillingham.

Adams was born in Gillingham in 1564 and became a sailor. His father died when he was 12 and he spent the following 12 years as an apprentice learning shipbuilding, navigation and astronomy, before joining the navy serving under Sir Francis Drake.

He also spent two years in the Arctic searching for a Northeast Passage along the coast of Siberia to the Far East.

But his fame began in April, 1600, when after 19 months at sea during which several of his fleet of five ships were lost or forced to turn back, he arrived in Japan.

Pirates

He was on board the Liefde, a Dutch trading ship with just 20 men left out of the 100 or so that started, and most of those were sick or dying. The ship anchored off the island of Kyushu and on April 19 the strongest nine men helped land the ship at Usuki.

Portuguese Jesuit priests told local officials Adams and his crew were pirates and should be executed. But Ieyasu Tokugawa talked with Adams and was impressed with his knowledge and they became friends. Tokugawa later became shogun, or military commander.

Adams went on to help design and build ships in Ito for the Japanese based on Western technology. Although now seen as an ally, Adams was not allowed to leave Japan until 1613. He became a diplomat, trade adviser, official translator to the shogun and was also given the name Miura Anjin, becoming a samurai – a huge honour.

The honours and responsibilities continued to grow as Adams formed trade alliances around the world. He died in Nagasaki in



EAST MEETS WEST: Japanese actor Masachika Ichimura (Tokugawa) with Owen Teale (Adams)

1620, aged 55 and his grave is still marked. A monument was also later created in Medway.

He had a wife and family in England, though saw little of them, and they received some of his inheritance. An annual festival has been held in Gillingham since 2000, and other festivities are held in Japan.

The show was performed at the Galaxy Theatre in Tokyo and was a joint venture between the Royal Shakespeare Company and Horipro of Japan. It played to packed houses for a month until mid-January.

Adams was played by Owen Teale, a Shakespearian actor who has performed in Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Henry IV and King Lear. On TV he has been seen in Spooks, Ballykissangel, Murphy's Law, and Torchwood.

He said: "Will Adams is a moving and fascinating part, and physically demanding."

"We did a lot of research in Japan, visiting places associated with Adams. I could not grow a beard, as in the second half I become a samurai and have to be clean-shaven."

Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa was played by Masachika Ichimura, with Tatsuya Fujiwara playing the part of Dominic, a Jesuit priest. Both are major actors in Japan.

Cllr Haydock said: "The production lasted three hours 20 minutes and was action packed and beautifully costumed. I really hope it will be brought to the UK. I would love to see it at the Central Theatre in Medway."

"While I was in Japan, I took the opportunity to promote the attractions of Medway including, of course, St Mary Magdalene Church in Gillingham, where Adams was baptised.

Sporting chance for youngsters

ACTIVE youngsters are being given the chance to turn their passion for sport into a qualification.

The Howard School Sport Partnership has introduced a new coaching scholarship where sporty teenagers can gain training badges.

Courses on offer for anyone aged over 16 include first aid, child protection training and coaching qualifications in a range of disciplines.

Development manager Claire Moore said: "The scholarship will really help people with future employment. By having coaching qualifications, volunteer work and community involvement on a CV it shows that a person is committed, motivated and has valuable experience in the sports industry."

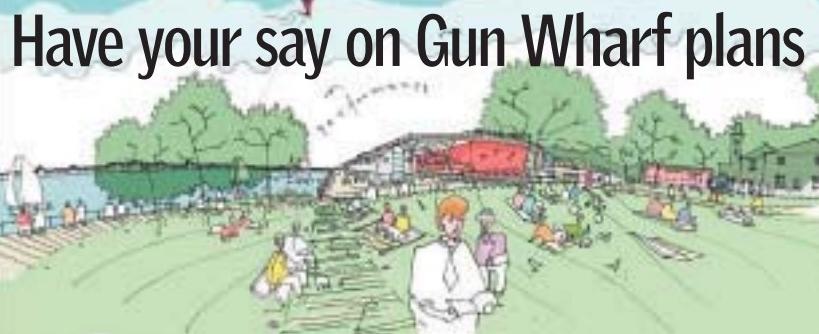
The partnership is working with the council to provide the lessons and will also provide experienced coaching mentors.



SAFE HANDS: Teenagers are being offered training opportunities by the Howard School Sport Partnership

The scheme not only aims to encourage children and young adults to take up sport but to open up potential career paths within sport. For more details, visit www.howardssp.co.uk.

Have your say on Gun Wharf plans



A SIX-WEEK consultation on plans to redevelop a key area of Chatham town centre began on Monday.

The multi-million-pound proposals for Gun Wharf are on display at Chatham library.

A draft master plan for the 20-year regeneration scheme was approved by Medway Council bosses last month.

Planners hope to create "an attractive civic and cultural quarter in Chatham, contributing to the wider regeneration of the town centre and waterfront".

Residents are urged to comment on the plans, which will be on display until April 10.

The plan can also be downloaded from www.medway.gov.uk/gunwharfmasterplan.



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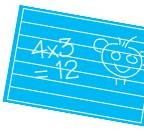
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BREAK TIME

Proud youngsters earn eco accolade

GREEN youngsters are flying the flag for sustainable education after gaining an eco award.

Horsted Infant School pupils were told last week they had gained the highest honour in the Eco-Schools scheme.

Teacher Jenny Gray, who coordinated the project, said: "Everyone is proud we have finally received the green flag. The programme provided a platform to promote environmental issues in a way that involved the whole school."

Staff and pupils at the Barberry Avenue school spent three years making the site more environmentally friendly.

They had to address themes including litter, healthy living and biodiversity. Some of the work included building a wildlife garden and woodland walk, redesigning the sensory garden, ensuring lights and electronic equipment was off at the end of the day and using a wormery for composting.

Stock of knowledge

STUDENTS are to benefit from a £200,000 investment in library stock at the University of Kent's Medway campus.

From the extra money, £75,000 is being made available for students to put towards titles they want.

Social sciences undergraduate Andrew Harris said: "To be partly responsible for the allocation of the funding is a privilege and I'm sure students will appreciate the chance to have a say in their education."

Professor Clare Mackie said: "We aim to empower students as much as possible and this will be a valuable exercise."

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yourletters

YOUR LETTERS



Fly-tippers lack old community pride

I am pleased to see that you are attempting to do something about fly-tipping. Just last week I wrote to my local councillor again about this problem, which I encounter as I cycle along the Burham Road.

I have been told in the past by the council that their budget (although huge) for fly-tipping only stretches so far, and thus the issue is passed on to the landowner to have the rubbish cleared. I understand that property rights may be an issue, but whoever draws up the contracts for rubbish clearance should demand that the supplier keeps Medway tidy!

Addressing the issue of why fly-tipping happens is another matter, and sadly our education system does not instil in people a sense of pride in the community any longer. I do wonder though if it is because the council waste sites are not more readily available to commercial workmen, at a time of their convenience, that the problem occurs.

Mr DAE Beedell



Kerb-crawler Brice should resign now

Cllr Brice's decision to serve as an independent councillor is outrageous. Clearly he does not comprehend the seriousness of what he has done and thinks he can still be a representative of the people of Rochester South and Horsted.

This individual has not only preyed on the most vulnerable in our community, but has broken the bond of trust with the electorate and undermined all credibility in himself. Yet we have the parody of Medway Conservative silence on whether he should stand down as a councillor and trigger a by-election in the ward. I, as a woman, would feel very uncomfortable representing my concerns to someone who's shown such a low regard for the

yourblogger

The Greek financial crisis could be good news for British sunseekers, says Gary Wright



THE thing I've resented most about the credit crunch has been how expensive it's become to go abroad.

But that's about to change. As the banking crisis led to global recession, I watched the value of my holiday pound slump.

This was in large part due to our Government's solution to the problem, quantitative easing, or printing money as most African dictators would know it.

A cheap pound makes our products more saleable abroad, unfortunately we don't produce much and our one big skill – financial services – is no longer in such great demand.

And weren't our chums across the Channel happy? The Germans, Belgians and French quickly realised Angleterre was the place for a bargain.

They came across, shopping for clothes and shoes, then wondered why we weren't visiting Calais quite so often any more.

Well you wouldn't, would you? Tesco wine is cheaper over here and I'm not comfortable paying eight quid for a bit of cheese made from sheep milk.

Anyway, the annual Wright family excursion has been a little squeezed in the past couple of years because of GB Ltd's financial mess.

Portugal and Mallorca, turned out to be a bit pricey last year, and even Turkey the previous year admitted prices were up and Brits weren't spending as much. No wonder.

I can get a fried breakfast cheaper in a transport café here than I could in sunny Marmaris. And that's not the way it should be. Because the idea of a holiday abroad is that it's so cheap you can come home and tell everyone how four of you ate out, drank gallons of the local booze, took a taxi back and still had so many pesetas/drachmas/lire left out of a tenner.

But for the past 18 months we've had to scrimp and visiting Med hotspots has become a bit pricey.

However, those nice Greeks are set to make it all better again. I love Greece. Holidays there have always been fun, sunny and cheap. But it's in real financial trouble and finally having to face up to economic reality.

France and Germany are pretty cross with Greek PM George Papandreou, since they have propped up the euro while our Mediterranean pals enjoy the benefits of stable interest rates and currency exchange.

Merkel and Sarkozy, along with the IMF, have given George a bit of a kicking, demanded he cut borrowing and spending, otherwise the country's international credit rating will resemble Zimbabwe's.

The Greek crisis has highlighted a dangerous weakness in the euro, proving that an interest rate and currency that stretches across borders 2,000 miles apart won't work unless everyone is sensible.

And that means the euro will become less attractive, will fall in value and we Brits can enjoy cheap holidays again. Retsina all round then.

Economics, why do people make it so complicated?

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, Simon Robinson, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmedway.co.uk.

treatment of women and the most disadvantaged in our community.

Medway Conservatives should have called for his resignation as a councillor and from the national Conservative Party. This is the second Conservative councillor to be disgraced in the ward, after a previous Tory called for single mums to be sterilised. The local Tory party does not stand up for the average family. They are out of touch and have shown a callous insult to the communities they seek to serve.

For him to be cautioned for kerb-crawling, while at the same time the council, the police and the NHS are working hard to combat prostitution, is disgraceful. Councillor Brice should resign immediately.

Cllr Teresa Murray

Words fail me over this Gov decision

I cannot understand this latest issue with the Government insisting language students have to have a certain level of understanding of the English Language before being allowed over here. Surely that is the reason for coming here in the first place – to improve the level.

If the Government had a ruling that all immigrants allowed to stay here had to learn the language, that would be good, as thousands of them do not want to learn, so we have to continue to support them financially. We have enough of our own people who are lazy and feed off the work-

ers and we shouldn't be expected to do the same with immigrants.

I am also tired of hearing that immigrants will not work more than 16 hours as they lose their benefits. If they are offered full-time work they should be made to take it or lose benefits the same others.

Have we become a load of idiots to accept this?

Mrs Russell, by email



A deeper hole than you can imagine

Yourmedway blogger raising concerns about the state of our roads (February 24) prompts me to tell you that between 2007 and 2013 the EU at Brussels is spending billions of euros on road-building and repairs across EU member countries in central and eastern Europe. Brussels is urging the rapid expansion of its Trans-European Transport Network (TEN) which will eventually stretch across Europe.

With Britain now the major con-



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the roughly 22,000 empty homes across Kent and Medway are put back into use too. Town centre shops need customers. Town centre residents make good customers.

If these efforts are made in combination with raising energy efficiency and the use of solar energy, businesses could also have lower energy costs in the future. Green Party research indicates that a Green New Deal package could create one million sustainable jobs. Making full use of existing buildings is a key part of this.

Hazel Dawe, Kent Green Party

Sorry Gordon, but your time is up

Prime Minister Gordon Brown launched the Labour Party's general election campaign this weekend with the plea that the public should trust him as a caring politician. He also gave a strong hint that the General Election may be on May 6 at the same time as local elections.

To do so he would need to dissolve Parliament on April 8. Am I a cynic or will he call it mid-March but keep the election on May 6 just so he can avoid having a Budget on March 18. That way he would not have to be honest with voters and say what he is going to do about Britain's near £200billion debt before the election.

In launching Labour's election campaign, Gordon Brown asked us to "give Labour a second look". So let's see what Labour has done to Britain during the last 13 years.

In 1999 they said we were "the first generation that could look forward to no wars and to none of our children dying in wars". Since then we have lost 385 soldiers and now learn from the Chilcott Inquiry that Gordon Brown was responsible for under-funding essential equipment.

Gordon Brown said he had got rid of "boom and bust" but we have a severe recession, three years of a failing economy, the biggest national debt in history, rising unemployment, rising house repossessions and increasing company failures.

Gordon Brown says he will give us a fairer future yet the gap between rich and poor gets greater and the tax for low-income families, pensioners, single parents and those on benefit has increased from 10 per cent to 22 per cent.

Labour said they would protect our borders, yet over the last 13 years immigration has risen from 40,000 to 250,000 a year.

Gordon Brown categorically denied bullying staff. Yet it is now alleged he manhandled staff and bullied them so much that three contacted the National Bullying Helpline and the Cabinet Secretary had to verbally warn him. That's not a trustworthy caring politician.

We have had a look at Gordon Brown and his failed Labour Government and the majority of voters will reject them, whenever the election. He may be able to get away with bullying his staff but he will not do it with the voters.

We need change from Gordon Brown and this miserable Labour Government.

John Burke, by email

Cricketer Geraint's charity golf day

MARTHA Trust hosts its third annual Geraint Jones charity golf day.

Players with a maximum handicap of 24 for men and 30 for women are invited to Prince's Golf Club, Sandwich, on Friday, March 19.

Teams of four will be joined by Kent cricketer Geraint Jones MBE and John Shepherd, the former West Indies international and Kent player.

The 18 holes, followed by a two-course dinner and charity auction will cost £70 per player – £40 per member – with proceeds going to the Deal-based trust.

Crack drug charge after cops seizure

A MAN has been charged with possession with intent to supply crack cocaine.

John Whiteman, 42, of Tupman Close, Rochester, was arrested inside the Pentagon Shopping Centre in Chatham.

Officers seized 73 wraps of crack cocaine, a class A drug.

He has been charged with possession Medway Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, March 3.

Herald memorial

THE annual service to commemorate those who died in the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster is at St Mary's Church, Dover, at 11am on Saturday.

A window in the church honours the 193 people who died when the ferry capsized in March, 1987.

Anniversary tribute to Few who took on the Luftwaffe

■ BY NICK AMES

THIS summer – the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain – will see a gathering of veterans at the official memorial to the heroes of the RAF.

On Sunday, July 11, former airmen will parade before Prince Michael of Kent at Capel-le-Ferne, while Spitfire and Hurricane fighters and a Lancaster bomber roar overhead.

The public is invited to attend what is sure to be a special day at the memorial, which includes a wall inscribed with the names of men who lost their lives, a sculpture of a pilot gazing out to sea and replica Hurricane and Spitfire fighter planes.

Cadets from all three branches of the armed services will attend, along with the band of the RAF. Standards from RAF squadrons will also be paraded on the day.

A spokesman said: "It's sure to be a great day. But as well as veterans, dignitaries and cadets, the public are also invited along and pay their respects."

The Battle of Britain took place in the sum-



TOP FLIGHT: Replica Spitfire at the Capel memorial

mer of 1940 after Hitler's Nazi forces had taken control of France and the Low Countries.

As a prelude to a planned invasion of Britain, the Luftwaffe was ordered to destroy the Royal Air Force which it greatly outnumbered. Raids lasted until the autumn as Fighter Command fended off waves of German bombers and tangled with their escorting ME109 and ME110 fighters.

Eventually the raids stopped and the threat of invasion was lifted – giving rise to Prime Minister Winston Churchill's famous tribute: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few".

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EXCLUSIVE LAUNCH - Beyoncé's new fragrance, Beyoncé Heat, will be available on board P&O Ferries from 1st March. Be one of the first to wear this new fragrance as it won't be sold on the High Street until later this year.

Take advantage of the bulk buy service and fill the boot with beer, wine or spirits and save up to 30% off the equivalent UK prices if you cut out the vouchers below you can save even more money. At these prices you can't afford not to go! Plus, you pay in pounds so no need to worry about the exchange rate.

EATING

Whilst on board our Food Court will be able to offer you great quality food at fantastic value prices - a family of four can eat for as little as £24 (2 Adults and 2 children under 16) with plenty of choice including 'Great British Classics' like Fish and Chips If you really want to treat yourself then you can dine in style in the world famous London Mayfair's Langan's Brasserie, exclusively on P&O Ferries.

You can sit back and relax whilst enjoying a Costa coffee on board along with a mouth watering muffin or a slice of cake. This is not just a trip with P&O Ferries; it is a total shopping and dining, travel experience and is not to be missed!

WHAT TO SEE AND DO - Stuck for ideas on what to do with the kids during Easter break? Why not take them to one of these great attractions just over the channel. We have some great offers for the whole family. Just cut out the vouchers below and start saving

NAUSICAA: Visit Nausicaa in Boulogne for a complete sealife experience. There are several giant aquariums and terrariums, discovery areas and regular exhibitions. Find out about whale migrations, sharks, Aldabra Giant Tortoises and visit the Sea Lion reserve and Penguin Beach.

LA COUPOLE: A secret place hidden in the hills around St.Omer, just 40 minutes from Calais.

Visitors can re-live life under Nazi occupation, learn about V2 rockets, view archive footage of WW2 and discover man's conquest of space, a totally memorable and fascinating experience.

PLOPSALAND: Under an hour from Calais, Plopsaland De Panne is an excellent family themepark located on the Belgian Coast. Dive into Pirates' Bay with the SuperSplash, join Mega Mindy in pursuit of the villains on the Flying Bicycles and enjoy a splashing water spectacle in the Jetski.

HOW TO BOOK: To book online visit www.poferries.com/kosmedia or call the P&O Ferries reservation hotline on **08716 64 80 01** quoting '**KOS Q1**'.

Calls cost 10p per minute plus network extras. Calls from mobiles will be higher.

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Please make a note of the reference number you are given. Payments must be made by selected credit/debit cards at the time of booking. Bookings made by credit card/cheque are subject to a booking fee. All tickets are collected at time of departure.



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Dover to Calais FOOT PASSENGER Prices	Sunday - Thursday		Friday and Saturday	
Depart after 07:50am return before 22:00 the same day	Web	Phone	Web	Phone
Travel 28th Feb to 23rd April- Prices from	£3	£5	£7	£8

Dover to Calais CAR FULL DAY TRIP Car and up to 9 people	Sunday - Thursday		Friday and Saturday	
Depart and return before midnight the same day	Web	Phone	Web	Phone
Travel 28th Feb to 31st March- Prices from	£19	£24	£24	£29
Travel 1st April to 23rd April- Prices from	£23	£28	£30	£35

Dover to Calais CAR AFTERNOON DAY TRIP Car and up to 9 people	Any Day	Any Day	Any Day	Any Day
Depart before midday and return midnight the same day	Web	Phone	Web	Phone
Travel 28th Feb to 31st March- Prices from	£17	£22	£17	£22
Travel 1st April to 23rd April- Prices from	£19	£24	£19	£24

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KOS Media Offer
One child goes free for one paying adult
Offer valid until 23rd April 2010



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KOS Media Offer
2 adults and up to 5 children for just €18.50
Offer valid for entry between March 22nd and 23rd April 2010



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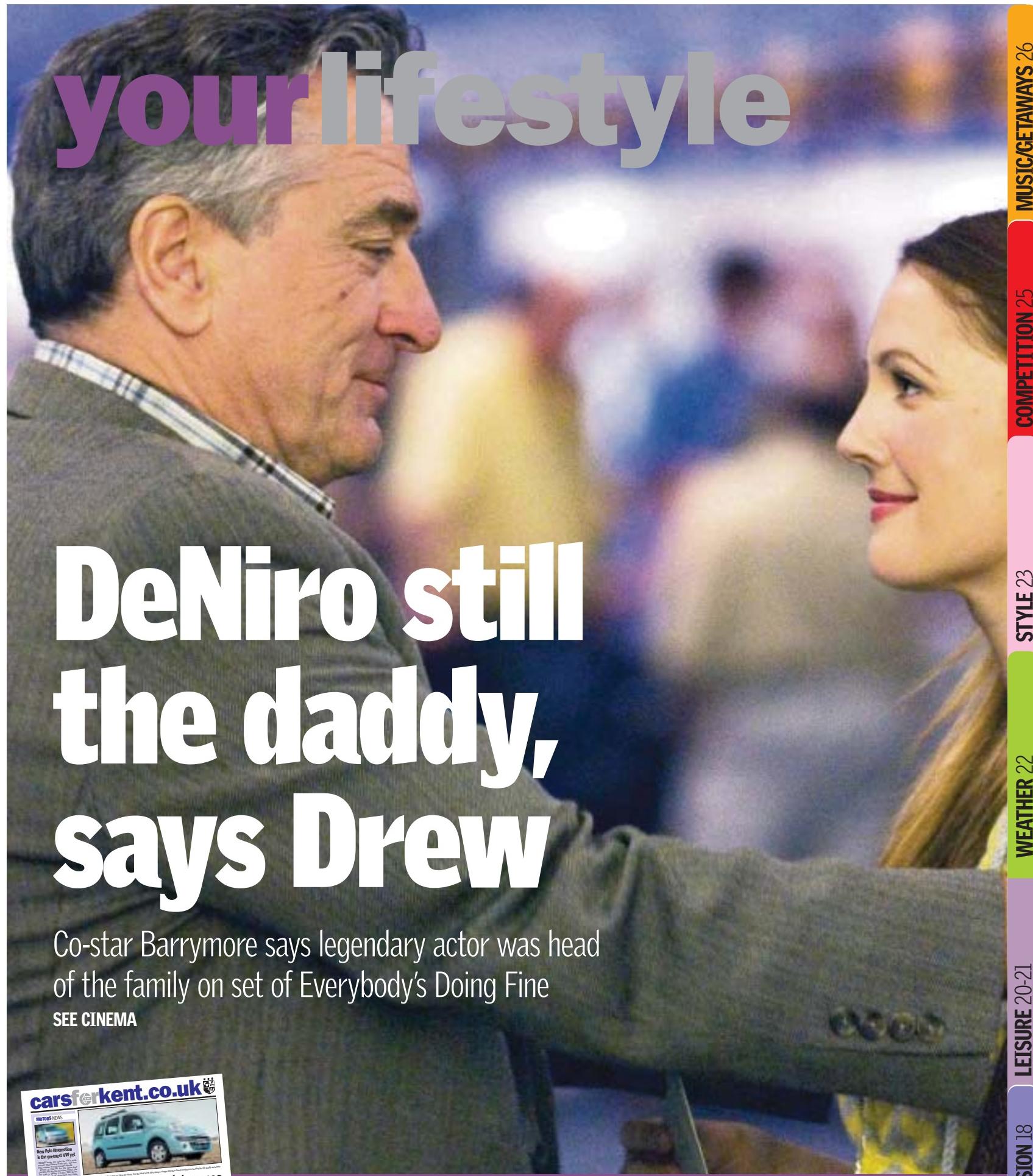
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KOS Media Offer
50% off entrance tickets, €14 per person (Normal price at gate €28)
Offer valid from 4th to 18th April 2010



Cut out this Voucher and hand this voucher in with you P&O Ferries ticket when paying for your tickets at Belgium's leading theme park Plopsaland. Offer not valid in conjunction with any other offer, discount, promotion or advanced booking. Voucher is only valid for one visit to Plopsaland and one transaction only.

yourlifestyle



DeNiro still the daddy, says Drew

Co-star Barrymore says legendary actor was head of the family on set of Everybody's Doing Fine

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De Niro's still the daddy as all-star cast line-up to join his film family

■ BY KATE WHITING

JUST how much do parents really know about their children's lives?

Everybody's Fine, a remake of an Italian film, suggests not as much as they think.

The film sees Oscar-winner Robert De Niro playing Frank Goode, a widower who has spent his life working in a wire factory, earning money to support his family.

When he retires, he realises he hasn't spent enough time with his children and sets off on a road trip across the US to surprise each of them.

He expects to find them living the successful lives his wife had always told him about, but the reality is very different.

As a father-of-four sons and one adopted daughter, 66-year-old De Niro knew only too well how complicated family relationships can be and it was this that appealed about the film.

"I can identify with this stuff, to say the least. I can understand what Frank is going through with his kids and that's what was so interesting to me," he says, in his unmistakable drawl.

"I have five kids and two grandchildren, so I could easily draw on [my own experience] when it was applicable to this film."

He's not afraid of how his children will respond to the film – and whether they'll see their dad in the character of Frank.

"I think they'll see it eventually... God knows what they'll say," he smiles, eyes twinkling.

Such is De Niro's pulling power as an actor, that Drew Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale and Sam Rockwell lined up to play his on-screen children, Rosie, Amy and Robert, and they worked hard to recreate a family.

"I hate those fake Hollywood families where people do one read-through and suddenly they're a family," says Barrymore, 34, whose character is "a dancer" in Las Vegas.

"This was different because we spent a lot of time together so the tactile feeling of affection would come across between us."



PARENTAL CONCERN: Drew Barrymore (right) called movie legend De Niro 'Daddy D' during the making of the film

"With Robert De Niro, I felt I couldn't just call him 'Bob', so I started calling him 'Daddy D'. I wanted to get to know him well enough so that those emotions would happen naturally on screen."

Beckinsale said: "I think we all felt very connected and cobbled together, like a real family. Everyone was full of emotions about the story.

"We might not have had the same experiences as our characters, but the themes of secrets in families, trying to protect your par-

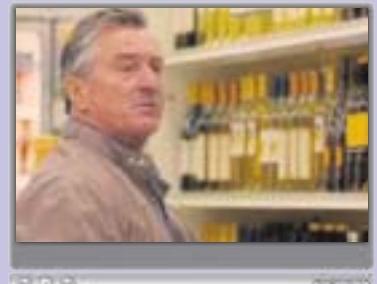
ents and the relationships between siblings was something each of us could relate to."

"It was especially personal to Bob and that sort of filtered down to each of us."

Everybody's Fine was written and directed by Nanny McPhee's Kirk Jones and based on the Italian film Stanno Tutti Bene by Oscar-winning director Giuseppe Tornatore, itself a follow-up to his classic Cinema Paradiso.

"I was very aware of how universal family is as a theme, possibly second only to the theme

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of love, which half the films we watch are about," says Jones, who lives in Bristol.

He admits he didn't have a plan B if De Niro had turned down the role of Frank.

"There wasn't really a back-up plan. I just knew he was right. After meeting him in New York I knew he was absolutely perfect for the role. It was just a matter of waiting for him to realise he was perfect for the role."

De Niro didn't let him down.

EVERYBODY'S FINE Certificate 12A

PICTURE: CHANNEL 4



WAITING GAME: Channel 4's documentary about a UK maternity ward is great TV



YOUR TV REVIEW

ONE BORN EVERY MINUTE: Channel 4, 9pm, Tuesday

■ BY TOM BETTS

the births that go off without a hitch.

Although, a quick note to all the dads-to-be out there: never try and lark about during the process.

Buffoonery at the most dramatic point of a female's life, no matter how well intentioned, will probably go down like a lead balloon.

Steve the policeman found this out to his cost when he thought it would be a good idea to tickle his other half's back with an inflated latex glove, while she was in, what can only be described as, "full flow".

The rebuke was sharp and swift, but you could understand why.

Many of the males who have appeared so far have not fared too well, proving that even though their presence is requested, and in

these times, expected in the delivery room, it would probably be a better idea for them to wait outside, at home or even down the pub.

You must also pity the hospital staff who seem to have a life filled with non-stop drama and stress, but cope admirably well throughout, and often act as a referee between warring partners.

At the end of an hour, the abiding memory is that most women in labour come across as incredibly brave and remarkably stoic in the face of such immense pain and pressure, but are quickly reduced to sobbing, wide-eyed softies when the screaming newborn baby is placed in their arms for the very first time.

When people talk about reality TV, this is what we should be referring to, not Big Brother or any of its now pointless imitators.



Geraint Jones

CHARITY GOLF DAY



Friday 19th March 2010
PRINCES GOLF CLUB, SANDWICH

In support of **Martha Trust**, a charity providing a loving, life-long home for people with profound and multiple disabilities

Geraint Jones MBE
England and Kent Cricketer

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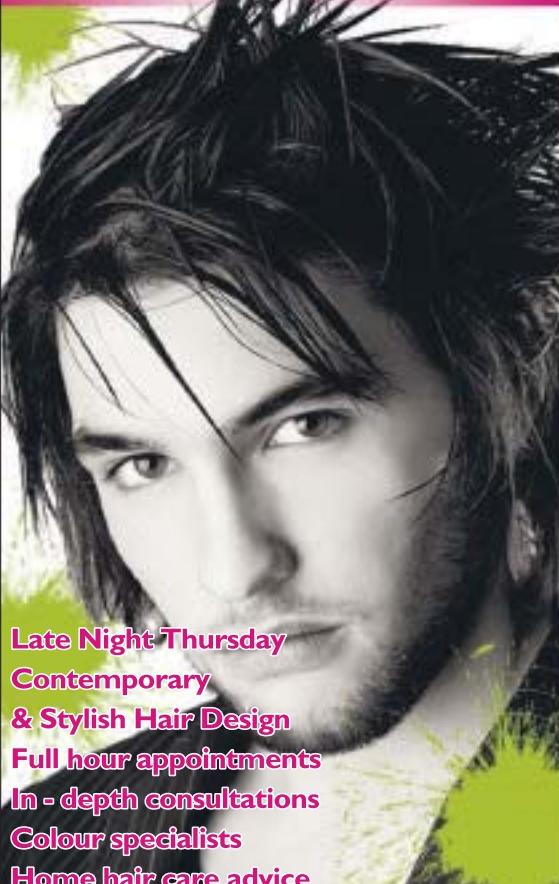
- SHOTGUN START AT 11.00AM
- COFFEE & BACON ROLL ON ARRIVAL
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LIVE & LOCAL

Have you got talent?

SHOW off your singing, dancing or comedy skills for a chance to win a trip to Abu Dhabi with Lashings' new talent contest.

The bar in Upper Stone Street, Maidstone, is offering a visit to the Emirates Palace Hotel for the winner and the grand final takes place in July.

To apply call 0870 460 6561, email info@lashings.co.uk or visit the bar.

Jolie star of screening

ANGELINA Jolie stars in Changeling, the story of a distraught mother who takes on the establishment.

Clint Eastwood directs the Oscar-winning film which can be seen at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone at 8pm on Monday, screened by the Maidstone Film Society. For more information visit www.maidstone-film-society.org.uk.

A date with nature

HELP visitors to discover nature at Leeds Castle this spring by volunteering for a RSPB wildlife project.

The charity needs volunteers to help at the Date With Nature event that runs at the castle from March 27 to April 18, and again from August 14 to 31.

Call Kate Whitton on 07889 615727 or email kate.whitton@rspb.org.uk.

Zumba craze is here

DISCOVER the latest dance craze from Miami at Zumba classes in Rochester.

The Latin-inspired workout is taking the world by storm and is a fun way to burn fat, while sculpting the body.

Classes are held at Virgin Active at Medway Valley Leisure Park at 7pm on Wednesdays and 10.35am on Thursdays. More details at www.virginactive.co.uk.

Orson's finest hour

A MOVIE masterpiece can be seen at Chatham's Central Theatre as part of the Screen Classics season.

Orson Welles' Citizen Kane is considered one of the finest films ever made and will be screened at 7.30pm on Tuesday.

Tickets cost £6 or £5 if booked online and £3.50 for students. Call 01634 338338 or visit www.medway.gov.uk/theatrebooking.

Sculptor to give talk

ARTIST Craig Fisher will be talking about his work at Rochester Art Gallery and Auditorium on Saturday.

Fisher's soft, sculptural installations form part of Thread Bare, an exhibition which explores the human condition.

He will give his presentation from 1pm to 2pm. To reserve your free place call 01634 338319.

Art group's exhibition

MEMBERS of the Norton Art Group will be taking over the Polka Dot Art Centre in Teynham for a week.

From Saturday the gallery will exhibit work by the group and members are happy to show visitors around.

The exhibition runs until next Saturday and the gallery is open from 10am to 4pm.

More details at www.polkadotac.co.uk.



Country star Carlene goes back to her roots

CARLENE CARTER

Saturday March 6
Exchange Studio, Maidstone



FEW musicians can boast a more impressive country music heritage than Carlene Carter.

As the step-daughter of the legendary Johnny Cash and daughter of June Carter Cash, she has a tremendous family history in the business. Thanks to Maverick Live, Carter tops the list of major country acts visiting Maidstone this year.

Her father, Carl Smith, was responsible for many hits in the 1950s and Carter has drawn on her rich heritage during her highly successful career. In the 1970s she joined the Johnny Cash Roadshow as one of the Carter Sisters, but her career was to take some unexpected directions as she explored her musical potential.

At the age of just 22, the mother-of-two left Nashville to launch a solo career in England where she established herself as a country rocker with punk influences. Not only did Carter work with top musicians such as Dave Edmunds, Paul Carrack – who left Squeeze to join her band – Brinsley Schwartz and Graham Parker's Rumour, she also appeared in the West End musical, Pump Boys and Dinettes. The move also led to romance and Carter married English singer-songwriter, Nick Lowe. Carter was well-known for her good looks and onstage patter that was sometimes a little risqué.

Top American country singer songwriter and step-daughter of the legendary Johnny Cash plays this month's Maverick Live programme

After releasing five successful albums in the UK, Carter returned to Nashville and her country roots in the late 80s, where she enjoyed a string of hit songs such as I Fell in Love, The Sweetest Thing and Come On Back. With the album I Fell in Love, she earned accolades from Tim, People and Stereo Review magazines, all of whom named it as one of the year's top-ten country albums.

Carter persuaded her dad to come out of retirement and join her on a duet for the album Little Acts of Treason. They sang a version of his hit song Loose Talk, which had hit the number-one spot in the year Carter was born.

Following a number of television specials, in which she was joined by family members and fellow musicians, Carter embarked on a major tour of 33 cities in 1996 with Lorrie Morgan and Pam Tillis.

The release of the album Hindsight 20/20 marked the beginning of a quiet period, but Carter overcame personal difficulties and tragedies to work on various projects at the start of the decade. In 2005, she played the role of her mother in a stage musical about June's early years with Mother Maybelle and the Carter Sisters.

Although Carter has explored different avenues during her career, she has returned to her roots with her latest album, Stronger. Following in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother, Maybelle Carter, she plays the autoharp and has written acoustic songs that really connect with her musical heritage.

The Carter Family were a phenomenally successful group that became the biggest selling recording act in the US from 1927 to 1935. Their success even outstripped Bing Crosby and the group continued in various formats for many years, with Carter joining her mother June and aunts Helen and Anita as the Carter Family in 1987.

The love story between June Carter and Johnny Cash was the subject of the Hollywood film, Walk the Line, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon, who won an Oscar and a BAFTA for her portrayal of June.

Tickets cost £22 and can be booked online at www.mavericklive.co.uk or by calling 01622 744481.

Future highlights of this year's Maverick Live programme include performances by Nashville-based act Suzy Bogguss and veteran country singer Gene Watson.



TO FIND MORE THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENT NEWS LOG ON AT yourkenttv.co.uk

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JANE CONNOLLYEmail jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk

CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS

Saturday, March 6, Pizza Express, Maidstone

DRESS to impress and get ready to dance the night away with the Chicago Blues Brothers.

Ever since Dan Ackroyd and John Belushi unleashed their comic creations on Saturday Night Live back in 1978, the Blues Brothers have continued to inspire countless tribute events and fancy dress parties.

When the hugely popular film was released in 1980, the pair secured a place in movie and music history with their fantastic blend of comedy and massive party tunes.

Many great soul and blues songs will be forever associated



with the besuited Jake and Elwood, in their shades and pork pie hats.

Celebrating 30 years of the Blues Brothers phenomenon, the feel-good show features a six-piece band backing Jake and Elwood as they rock their way through this funny and entertaining production, featuring great tunes like Shake Your Tail Feather, Sweet Home Chicago, Everybody Needs Somebody and many more.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £23.

To book visit the website at www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk.



JAZZ CONCERT FOR HAITI

Wednesday, March 10, RAF Association Club, Chatham

OUTSTANDING jazz musicians join forces to raise money for victims of the Haiti earthquake at a special concert next week.

Coljazz Promotions has assembled a fantastic line-up of performers for this all-star concert, which will raise much-needed funds for those affected by the disaster.

Among the musicians giving their time for free are saxophone-clarinet star Pete Long and remarkable drummer Martin Drew (both pictured).

The stellar line-up also includes sax players Alan Barnes, Simon Spillet and Alex



Garnett, along with Steve Fishwick, Paul Cheneour and Mark Nightingale who play the trumpet, flute and trombone respectively. Bass will be provided by Andrew Cleyndert and Alec Dankworth, with more drums from Bobby Worth. Keyboard player Steve Mellings completes the line-up so far, with more set to join the action.

The show starts at 8.30pm and tickets cost £10. There will also be a raffle. For more details call 01634 365352/362704 or 07544 312743, email coljazz@virginmedia.com or visit www.coljazz.webs.com.

CHRIS WOOD

Wednesday, March 10 The Chimney Boy, Faversham



THROUGHOUT his career, Chris Wood's independent streak has shone through his captivating music.

Wood's early days as a choirboy continue to influence his music and he describes his latest album, Handmade Life, as "church music with drums".

The self-taught guitarist and violin player creates songs with astonishing clarity and lyrical understatement, a talent which earned Wood the BBC Folk Awards Singer of the Year gong last year. He also received the Best Album award for Trespasser and is considered to be a major commentator on modern English life.

With his considerable skills as a singer-songwriter, he has worked with The Oyster Band, Billy Bragg and Eliza and Martin Carthy, before recording his first solo album in 2006.

One of his songs, The Burning Babe, has been covered by Sting on his latest album, Winter. This compliment pays tribute to the fact that Wood is a highly regarded artist who has quietly carved his own, very successful career.

The concert starts at 8.30pm and tickets cost £7 for Faversham Folk Club members or £8 for non-members. To find out more call 01795 536857.



STOP MESSING ABOUT

Monday March 8 to

Saturday March 13

Orchard Theatre, Dartford



REVISIT a golden age of classic comedy with the hilarious and nostalgic Stop Messing About.

The rapier wit of Kenneth Williams is celebrated in this outrageously funny show, based on the eponymous BBC radio series that gripped audiences in the 1960s. The show is set during a live recording and captures the riotous fun of radio comedy, with sketches, parodies and songs.

Stop Messing About sees Williams reunited with Carry On co-star Joan Sims and Hugh Paddick, producing comedy gold that was suitable for all the family.

Taking on the daunting task of playing the comic legend is Robin Sebastian, who received much praise for his portrayal of Williams in the West End production.



Written by Johnnie Mortimer and Brian Cooke – the brains behind sitcoms Man About the House, Robin's Nest and George & Mildred – the show takes audiences on a nostalgic journey into a world of

timeless comedy and characters. Performances start at 7.30pm daily (matinees 2.30pm Wednesdays and Saturdays). Tickets are priced from £15. Book at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01322 220000.

THE COMEDY CLUB

Friday, March 5

Bridgewood Manor, Chatham



RIBS will be well and truly tickled this week when The Comedy Club brings three more great comics to Medway.

Keeping order during the two hours of hilarity is Padraig Hyland, who acts as MC for the evening and is sure to warm up the crowd with his Irish warmth and charm.

The comedian is also a life coach and he has plenty of hilarious observations to keep the laughter flowing.

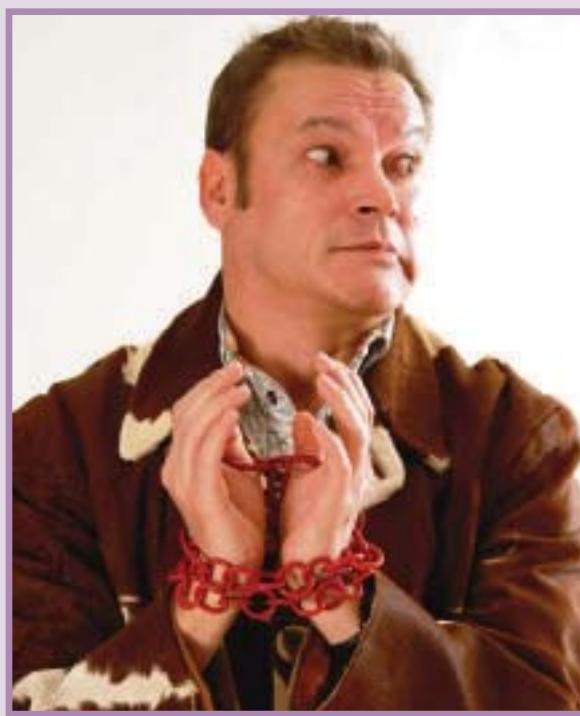
After being disowned by the Catholic Church for his overly detailed confessions, Anthony King turned to comedy and manages to combine his real experiences with complete lies to great comic effect.

Headline act Nick Wilty (pictured) is known as the Globetrotting Comedian and he has lived up to the name by performing on every continent except Antarctica.

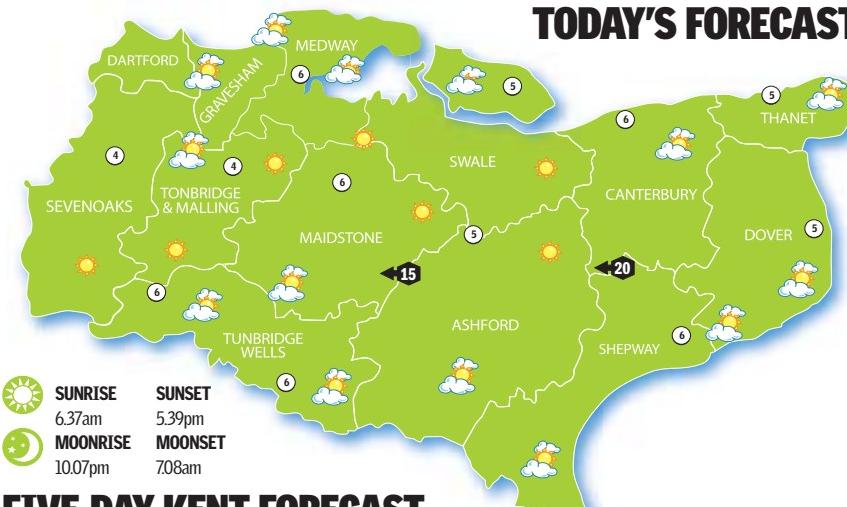
The award-winning comic has even performed in far-flung Tierra Del Fuego at the southernmost tip of South America.

The over-18s show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £22.95 including a two-course meal and disco. There will also be waitress service and a joke competition.

To book call 01634 201333 or visit www.hahaheehee.com for more details.



yourweather

WEATHER UPDATES 24 HOURS A DAY @ www.kentnews.co.uk

TODAY'S FORECAST

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DOVER - SUMMERMEADE FERRIES

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:35pm	5.6m
	Sunday	5:18pm	5.2m
Dover	Saturday	2:50pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:40pm	5.7m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:51pm	6.9m
	Sunday	3:41pm	6.4m
Ramsgate	Saturday	3:20pm	4.7m
	Sunday	4:10pm	4.3m
Sheerness	Saturday	4:24pm	5.4m
	Sunday	5:07pm	5.1m
Whitstable	Saturday	4:33pm	4.9m
	Sunday	5:15pm	4.7m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	6°C	Madrid	11°C
Athens	17°C	New York	4°C
Barcelona	16°C	Paris	10°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	15°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	18°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	6°C	Tokyo	10°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	25°C	Warsaw	9°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	18°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	10°C	6°C	6°C	7°C	6°C	Gravesend	9°C	7°C	7°C	6°C
Canterbury	7°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Maidstone	9°C	7°C	7°C	7°C
Chatham	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Ramsgate	7°C	6°C	6°C	5°C
Dartford	9°C	7°C	7°C	7°C	6°C	Rochester	8°C	6°C	6°C	5°C
Dover	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Sevenoaks	8°C	5°C	5°C	5°C
Faversham	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Sittingbourne	8°C	6°C	6°C	5°C
Folkestone	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Tonbridge	9°C	6°C	6°C	7°C
Gillingham	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Tun Wells	9°C	6°C	6°C	7°C

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W H F is a charity based in Kent working hard to ensure the survival of big cat species. We are an active partner in the European Endangered Species Breeding Programmes and raise awareness and funding for cat projects around the world.

RANGER FOR THE DAY

A guided tour of site to meet all the cats, including Lions, Tigers, Snow Leopards, Cheetahs & Amur Leopards, an opportunity to help us clean and tend the cats, assist with the cat feeding and to get some really good photos as mementos of the day.



Wildlife Heritage Foundation
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Ashford TN27 8PJ
Tel: 01233 771915
Website: www.whf.org.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1104420

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Comedian just won't shut up

FIRMLY dispelling those winter blues, the inimitable comedian Jo Caulfield will perform a stand-up set in Canterbury this month.

The woman who got into comedy after a drunken attempt at an open mic night in east London now tackles topical issues from the recession and how to get out of it, to more perennial annoyances like loved-up couples, in her new show.

Caulfield counts Dave Allen, Billy Connolly, Joan Rivers and Eddie Izzard as major influences and revels in one reviewer's description of her show as a "celebration of anger".

Recently dubbed the best female stand-up in the country by chortle.co.uk, Caulfield is best known for appearing on the BBC's Mock The Week, Have I Got News For You, Never Mind The Buzzcocks and Michael MacIntyre's Comedy Roadshow.

Unbeknown to many she has also been Graham Norton's head writer for years, and has also written for celebrities ranging from Marcus Brigstocke to Anne Robinson.

Now, 12 years after her first comedy attempt, Ms Caulfield is taking to the stage for her fourth national comedy tour with her show Won't Shut Up, which sold out at Edinburgh.

The gig is on Wednesday, March 10, at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury. Tickets cost £14, or £12 for concessions. They are available from the theatre box office on 01227 769 075 or www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian.



yourstyle

Principles by Ben de Lisi at Debenhams

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Ben de Lisi belted cardigan, price £40



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Ben de Lisi stripy top, price £28



DEBENHAMS
Ben de Lisi monochrome dress, price £80



DEBENHAMS
Ben de Lisi jeans, price £35

yourtimeout

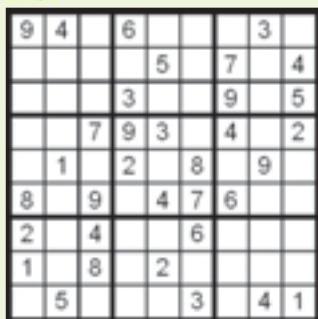
CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No127

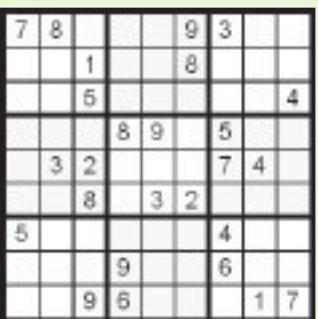
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WATERSTONE'S

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY



EASY



EASY



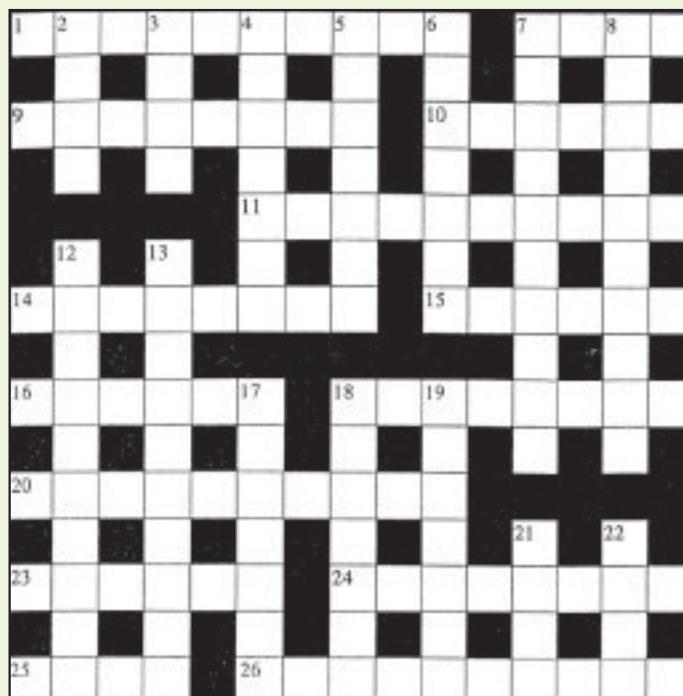
CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Positive development? (10)
- 7 Around four, I in France, dance (4)
- 9 Spray of liquid hesitantly put on drink (8)
- 10 New centre spread (6)
- 11 It is supposed to bring good fortune during promising spell (5,5)
- 14 Stress identification was included for mishap (8)
- 15 Equality of one in political group (6)
- 16 Laura's not left another question first about celestial body (6)
- 18 Bus reversed in front of garage, not the main one (8)
- 20 Employment of persons I arranged (10)
- 23 Much liked dog I abused becoming a deep violet-blue (6)
- 24 Runs idea about old Roman coin (8)
- 25 Present from the residents (4)
- 26 Shabby fluff by back of one's foot (4-2-4)

DOWN

- 2 He accepted work in anticipation (4)
- 3 Catch onto small branch (4)
- 4 Beast having zest, no way, during legal complications (7)
- 5 A pair I caught to come up with fruit (7)
- 6 Impatient call for rate increase (5,2)
- 7 One who was cornered in a nursery-rhyme (4,6)
- 8 Archdeacon takes fifth allowance with awe (10)
- 12 Happening to be found with said bird at church (10)
- 13 Animated greeting to bring one round? (4,2,4)
- 17 Some of the correspondents reply (7)
- 18 Margery has slip first on mountain (7)
- 19 Boaz and Ann rediscovered wealthy mine (7)
- 21 Principal way through (4)
- 22 Some of the influx especially liked opulence (4)



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Unresolved (2,2,3,3)
- 7 Bend (4)
- 9 Odd (8)
- 10 Interchange (6)
- 11 Mode of thinking (10)
- 14 Counter-argument (8)
- 15 Restart (6)
- 16 Grated (6)
- 18 Sittings (8)
- 20 Horror film (5,5)
- 23 Former Indian PM (6)
- 24 Part of the Atlantic (5,3)
- 25 Resist (4)
- 26 Rank of one titled Isiri (10)

DOWN

- 2 Prudish (4)
- 3 Barricaded area (2-2)
- 4 Fool (7)
- 5 Advent (7)
- 6 Cattle thief (7)
- 7 Amicable feeling (10)
- 8 Thrill (10)
- 12 Execute (10)
- 13 June 24th eg (7-3)
- 17 Northern French port (7)
- 18 Japanese dish (7)
- 19 To an excessive level (3-4)
- 21 Hash (anag.) (4)
- 22 Greek philosopher (4)

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No126

ACROSS: 1 Whistle-stop 9 Knotty 10 Hidalgo 12 Upsurge 14

Lerwick 15 Conjectured 16 Too 17 Pad 19 Bartholomew 22

Organza 23 Pavlova 24 Instate 25 Sunlit 26 Short-change.

DOWN: 2 Hands-on 3 Set free 4 Lay 5 Scholarship 6 Ordered

7 Plaintiff 8 You-know-what 11 Quick profit 13 External car

18 Digest 19 Beneath 20 Lavinia 21 Mooring 25 Sac.

QUICK SOLUTION No127

ACROSS: 1 Up in the air 7 Flex 9 Singular 10 Swiftly 11

day 12 Dumbfirk 18 Sashimi 19 Sky-high 21 Zaph 22 Zen.

20 Video nasty 23 Gaudy 24 Iris 25 Dely 26

Walelempith 14 Redefit 15 Resume 16 Jarred 18 Sessions

Russet 7 Friendship 8 Exclamation 12 Decimate 13 Quarrel 6

Kinghood DOWN: 2 Prim 3 No-go 4 Halfwit 5 Avril 6

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



YOUR HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

TAKE time to smell the flowers before it's too late. For the past few weeks, you've been working day and night. Small pleasures like good food, stimulating company and beautiful surroundings have escaped your attention. If you don't change your focus, you'll burn out fast.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU have a marvellous opportunity to reinvent yourself in a radical way. Changing your hairstyle, updating your image, and switching industries are among the possibilities. If you've been longing to come out of your shell, now is the time to do so.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



ARIES (Mar 21-April 20)

GETTING a little peace and quiet should be your first priority. You're just recovering from a period of frenzied activity. By taking this opportunity to rest, you'll be in good shape for the challenges that face you early next month. Pursuing an interest will be enjoyable.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

WHO you know is more important than what you know. Be sure to network at every opportunity. Have a supply of business cards on hand; you're sure to meet someone who will advance your social life. New friends will introduce you to a pastime that spics up your life.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU'RE making new career plans, which makes your loved ones nervous. Entering a hi-tech industry will cause your star to rise. It might also enable you to live abroad. Although you hate uprooting a youngster, it's the only way to take advantage of the opportunities ahead.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



CANCER (June 23-Jul 23)

A CHANCE to expand your horizons will fall into your lap quite unexpectedly. This is your big chance to study alongside a respected teacher, chef, or artist. Their methods of instruction will be unconventional, but they will be effective, too. Don't question their advice; just lean into it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

AN intimate relationship takes an exciting new turn. You and your beloved won't be able to keep your hands off each other in the week ahead. Sneaking off to a private location will give life a welcome dash of adventure, but you should still make time to attend a party.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

FORMING a business partnership will give you access to an unusual organisation. In the past, you were forced to take a back seat to people whose skills were inferior to yours. Now you have a chance to show off your talent. A benefactor will give you the funds to launch a project.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

IF you've been looking for work, you could find an unusual one related to air travel, technology, or medical research. Although you may not have much previous experience in this field, you will take to it like a duck to water. You Librans are marvelously adaptable!

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU'RE entering an exciting new phase, one that is filled with romance and adventure. If you have a lover, the two of you will rediscover the passion that first drew you together. If you're single you might meet someone special at a technology store or computer class.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

AN opportunity to spend more time at home changes the tone of your personal life. Lately, you've been spending lots of time at clubs, restaurants, and pubs. Now you're able to rest and relax in your own safe haven. If you're been thinking of buying your own place, start looking now.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

LEARNING a valuable skill will enable you to mix with some unusual people. You've never considered yourself to be particularly adept with technology, but that's about to change. Now you have a good teacher, you're able to work equipment with relative ease.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

yourcompetition

WIN! Exclusive tickets to see Sharleen Spiteri

HEART 103.1 & 102.8 is staging a number of exclusive and intimate live events called Heart Love Music Live with Barclaycard Unwind.

Heart's next Love Music Live event will be a once-in-a-lifetime gig with the multi-talented singer-songwriter Sharleen Spiteri at Orchid in London's West End on Thursday, March 4 - and YOU and a friend could be there!

Yourlocal has teamed up with Kent's biggest commercial radio station to give away one pair of exclusive, money-can't-buy tickets to see Sharleen Spiteri perform for you, up close and personal at this special intimate gig.

Following her massive success fronting the iconic band Texas and her UK top three debut solo record, Sharleen is back with a brand new album. The Movie Songbook is a collection of her favourite cinematic show-stoppers, featuring popular songs such as Xanadu, a stunning re-worked version of the classic 1980 number one hit.

To enter this fantastic competition simply email your name, address and telephone number to Competitions@kosmedia.co.uk. The winner will be notified on Thursday morning, so please make sure you are free on the Thursday evening to attend this great

music event. Closing date is tonight, Wednesday, March 3 at 5.30pm.

To find out more about Heart's Love Music Live events, tune into Heart Kent on 103.1 & 102.8 FM or visit heart.co.uk

Terms & conditions: The tickets are valid to see Sharleen Spiteri at Orchid in London on Thursday, March 4 2010. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets cannot be exchanged or transferred to another performance/artist and there is no cash alternative to the prize. Travel to/from London is not included. The competition is open to over 18s only.



20 things to do at VILLAGE Maidstone in 2010



20

things to do

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yourmusic

Love folk? Then you should Coco



MUCH LOVED: Coco's Lovers are gaining a reputation for their vibrant live performances

■ BY TOM BETTS

FOLK is back, and it's back with a bang.

The often ridiculed genre is undergoing something of a resurgence, and thanks to bands like Coco's Lovers, it's not difficult to see why.

Blending a battered suitcase full of whimsical harmonies, clattering rhythms and even the odd hand-clap or two, Coco's Lovers are gaining a reputation for joyous live shows and a musical depth that extends beyond the boundaries of a mere genre of the month.

During their performances you can expect to hear guitars, violins, flutes, recorder, tenor banjos, mandolins fighting to be heard over the sound of an appreciative audience.

The success of Fleet Foxes and the brilliant The Decemberists may have helped to kick-start the recent high-profile revival, but here in Kent, Cocos Lovers and their contemporaries are evidence that we have talent locally to sustain a scene beyond trends.

The set up is a true family affair and features brothers, sisters, husbands and wives, so it's no wonder there seems to be a special chemistry between the clan.

The band has captured the myriad melodies and boundless energy from their live shows with their debut album, *Johannes*.

With a typically rapturous live set promised from the Cocos, who have supported new folk sensations Mumford and Sons, you should expect a good night if you attend launch party for their new release on Saturday.

The record is being issued through small new Kent label Smugglers Records and the party takes place at the Astor Theatre in Stanhope Road, Deal, from 6.30pm until late.

Six of the band's seven members hail from the Cinque Port town and the Astor hosts regular Smugglers nights.

Support comes from the equally brilliant modern blues band Krissy and the Jackdaws and Will Varley, who peddles a fine line of party-tickets.

Enjoy the Coco's Lovers music at www.myspace.com/cocoslovers.

UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC VIDEOS TO BROADCAST ON OUR WEBSITE @

yourkenttv.co.uk



Ben Jukes performs 4 Non Blondes' hit 'What's Up'. Search 'Ben'



Los Salvadores performing at Lounge on the Farm. Search 'Salvadores'



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Craig Sheridan - 7/3 The Bohemian Deal
- 2 Audio Bullys - 19/3 Westcoast Bar Margate
- 3 Save Target As - 23/3 Canterbury University
- 4 The Suspects - 26/3 The Rose Broadstairs
- 5 Foreboding Ether - 29/5 Ivy Leaf Shepphy

well-crafted, world-weary acoustic songwriting.

The party will also include a 7pm showing of the Martin Goldsmith's Folk Soul documentary, in which Coco's Lovers feature.

Tickets for the night cost £5 and are available from Soundhouse Records in Deal High Street or by visiting <http://cocoslovers.bigcartel.com/product/album-release-party-tickets>.

Enjoy the Coco's Lovers music at www.myspace.com/cocoslovers.



VINTAGE VESSEL: The Emanuel offers seven-day tours of around the beautiful coastline and islands of Croatia during the summer months

yourgetaways



Enjoy Croatia in all its glory on cruise around the Adriatic

■ BY PETER BEAL

OUR small cruise ship nosed into a deserted bay on the wooded island of Brac in the Adriatic, and we slipped over the side to swim in the crystal-clear waters.

It was the perfect way to cool off at the end of a day that had seen us explore Croatia's second city of Split, with its well-preserved Greek and Roman ruins.

After our refreshing swim in the bay at Brac we clambered back aboard the Emanuel, a compact, vintage-style cruise ship which offers seven-day tours of Croatia's coast and islands this summer.

We moored in Bol on Brac, an old fishing port enjoying something of a boom as a resort.

Along the quayside, the local winery produces the local Boski Plavac, a red wine made from local black grapes, and where you can enjoy tastings.

About 15 minutes' walk from the harbour is the beach of Zlatni Rat, or Golden Horn, a spectacular mini-peninsula of clean white pebbles stretching out to sea that has been acclaimed as among the world's top ten beaches.

We had spent our first night on board Emanuel moored in the medieval walled city of Trogir, an easy drive from Split Airport. The next morning, we headed north by road along the Dalmatian coast.

Fishing ports with their red-roofed houses dot the coastline, including the picturesque Primosten, a small village with narrow, winding streets set on a hilly peninsula.

We paused in Sibenik, the most-fortified town in the Adriatic and one-time seat of the Croatian kings,

FACT FILE: CROATIA

Time difference + One hour (GMT)

Capital Zagreb

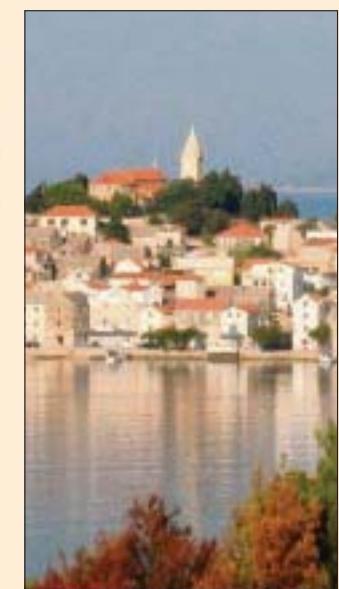
Language Croatian

Currency Kuna

Religion Roman Catholic

Peter Beal was a guest of Saga Holidays which offers a new seven-day Dalmatian Island Explorer cruise between May and October 2010 from £799, including return flights, transfers, insurance, full board, local wines, beers and soft drinks with punch and dinner, free bar open for 11 hours a day, all gratuities on board, and some excursions.

- With MV Emanuel sold out, future bookings are aboard The Vapor.
- Connecting flights ex-Manchester from £76, ex-Glasgow from £74.
- Seven-day extension stay at a five-star hotel in Dubrovnik starts at £349.
- Saga reservations: 0800 056 5880 and www.saga.co.uk/travel



to admire the magnificent 15th century St Jakob's Cathedral, which took 105 years to build with stone from Brac.

Further north is Zadar, an ancient and imposing town surrounded almost entirely by water and where film director Alfred Hitchcock, on a visit in the 1960s, pronounced its sunsets as the most beautiful he had seen in the world.

To the south is the 36-mile long Makarska Riviera, above which towers the 5,780-foot Mount Biokovo, a seemingly inaccessible mass of rock.

No-one should miss the historic walled city of Dubrovnik, dubbed the 'pearl of the Adriatic' by George

Bernard Shaw and rebuilt after the pounding it took from the Yugoslav Army and Serb rebels in the early 1990s.

When crowds from visiting cruise ships dispersed by mid-afternoon, we took the mile-and-a-half walk around the massive city walls, 10 to 20foot thick walls, looking down on the red roofs of restored buildings and the streets below.

Croatia has so much to offer visitors: magnificent buildings, a huge choice of watersports, miles of good walking, great beaches. With an expert guide to point the way, its history and heritage is utterly absorbing.

MOTORS NEWS



New Polo Bluemotion is the greenest VW yet

ORDER books are open for VW's most miserly BlueMotion model yet – the new Polo version should average 80mpg.

Priced at £14,445 for the three-door and £15,045 for the five-door model, the car uses a 74bhp 1.2-litre TDI three-cylinder diesel. It saves fuel and emissions through better aerodynamics and recovering energy via regenerative braking and an automatic start/stop system – the car is road tax exempt due to CO2 emissions of just 91g/km – yet can hit 62mph in 13.9 seconds.



Chevy sparking interest in the city car sector

CHEVROLET'S Matiz city car was popular and cheap, but was stigmatised by association with older drivers.

Chevy is keen to ensure its Spark successor – launched officially on March 12 – suffers no such fate. The five-door Spark (£6,945) has dynamic styling for such a compact car, but the American value brand is also marketing it to younger buyers with personalised graphics, or 'Tags'.

Three different graphic sets are available plus co-ordinated floor mats at a cost of £199 all fitted.



It's a last hurrah from Honda on Scrappage

HONDA has re-launched a popular zero per cent finance offer on the versatile Jazz to help customers make the most of the last month of Scrappage.

The Jazz supermini – now built at Honda's Swindon plant – has been the brand's best-seller via the Government-backed £2,000-a-time Scrappage grant scheme, ending on March 31.

Owners of cars 10 years or more old can still get the £2,000 though, plus that zero per cent HP deal over two years – also available to non-Scrappage customers.



ROOM WITH A VIEW: Renault's Kangoo has taken the chassis from the latest Scenic MPV giving it a longer wheelbase than its predecessor, boosting the ride quality and interior

Even more 'can do' comes from the all-new Kangoo

VAN-based MPVs are 'Marmite Motors' – cars you either love or hate.

Renault was a pioneer with the Kangoo, landing here in 1999. As a cut-price all-rounder for a self-employed tradesman, it could carry tools by day and the family in the evenings and at weekends, with easy access to rear seats via two sliding doors.

Many families also latched onto it as an economical second car/school bus and Renault grew sales further by marketing to pet lovers and sporting types needing to carry tents, bikes, surfboards and other gear.

The format adds up even more since an all-new model arrived last June. It's still a magnet for 'Postman Pat' jibes, but buyers can be more smug this time around.

For the Kangoo has gone posh without forgetting its roots, with a donor chassis from the latest Scenic MPV, boosting ride quality, handling and sophistication against its predecessor, while pegging prices for such a spacious car which starts from £11,438 to £15,220 for the top spec.

The Scenic route brings a longer wheelbase

ROAD TEST RENAULT KANGOO

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal



Image



Space



Value



Running costs



Reliability



Green rating



for a bigger cabin, taking five adults in comfort with three proper seats and acres of space in the back. Back seats fold in one movement for a completely flat cargo area.

Mid-range Expression trim (as tested) brings overhead lockers and shelving, folding tables on front seatbacks, multi-position parcel shelf and folding front passenger seat.

However, the dashboard betrays van origins; it works well enough, but you are faced by a grim acreage of plastic though the situation is rescued partly by the glassy airiness and pleasant driving manners of the Kangoo.

Two 1.6-litre petrol options are available, but the 1.5dCi diesel is the big draw. I like this engine's flexibility and Renault underlines the point by offering three outputs: 68PS (67bhp), 86PS (85bhp) and 106PS (104bhp).

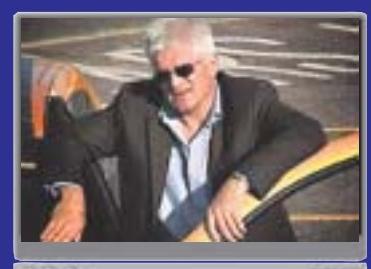
The first two have less than 140g/km of CO2 emissions, so they qualify for Renault's eco 'green label' though still attracting £120/year in road tax and £110 after 1 April.

The 86PS unit fitted to the test car proved to be about right for the Kangoo, with a good mix of economy and power for a vehicle that may be worked hard as a family troop carrier or even a commercially-operated courtesy vehicle or taxi.



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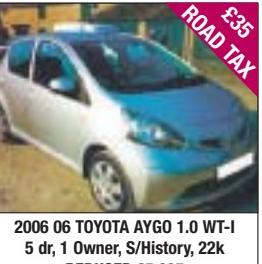
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1.6 ZETEC**
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5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 25k
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REDUCED £5,995



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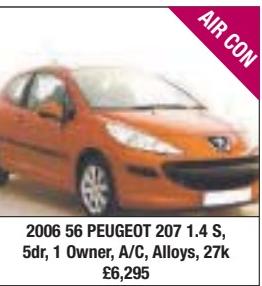
2006 56 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE
7 SEATER, 5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 29k
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2006 56 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S
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5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 37k
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1.6 LIFE 7 SEATER
1 owner, s/history, A/C, 29k
£6,795



2007 56 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S
5dr, 1 Owner, A/C, 29k
£6,495



2006 06 RENAULT KANGOO
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2006 06 CITROEN PICASSO
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2006 56 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S
5dr, 1 owner, A/C, alloys, 25k
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£6,495



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£6,995



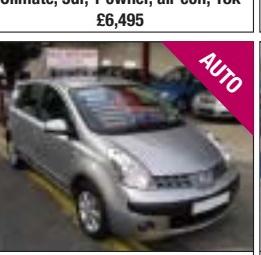
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VVT-I, 5DR, 1 OWNER, S/HISTORY, 26K
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AGILA										MERIVA									
Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£				
2005	55	Agila Expression	1.0	5	Star silver	24,800	3,695	2006	06	Meriva Design	1.4	5	Silver	36,030	6,995				
2009	09	Agila Design Auto	1.2	5	Sugar white	2,290	9,495	2006	06	Meriva Life A/C	1.4	5	Steel blue	19,730	6,495				
2009	09	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Atlanta blue	6,350	8,995	2007	57	Meriva Design CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	34,950	8,495				
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta Blue	Del mileage	10,495	2009	09	Meriva Active CDTi	1.3D	5	Ultra blue	8,750	10,495				
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Sugar white	Del mileage	10,495	2009	59	Meriva Active CDTi +	1.3D	5	Star silver	12,995	12,995				
ASTRA										TIGRA									
Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£				
2006	56	Astra Sri Sports hatch	1.6	3	Panacotta	21,950	8,295	2006	06	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Air blue	30,500	8,395				
2006	56	Astra Sri	1.6	5	Moonland	28,600	7,495	2007	07	Tigra Exclusive Red	1.4	2	Metro blue	32,500	9,495				
2007	07	Astra Design Twin top	1.8	2	Air blue	10,240	10,995	2009	59	Tigra Exclusive	1.4	2	Antigua	2,120	11,995				
2008	58	Astra Sri TBO X Pack	1.6	3	Metro blue	8,300	12,995												
2008	58	Astra Sri	1.6	5	Flame red	12,000	9,695												
2008	58	Astra Sri Ex Pack	1.8	3	Black sapphire	5,960	12,495												
2009	09	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Silver lightening	7,190	10,845												
2009	09	Astra Breeze Sports hatch	1.7D	3	Black sapphire	6,250	11,695												
2009	09	Astra Club	1.4	5	Star silver	5,690	9,795												
2009	09	Astra Sri	1.6	5	Green spirit	5,300	10,995												
2009	59	Astra Sri Sports Hatch	1.6	3	Sovereign silver	Del mileage	12,995												
2009	59	Astra Sri A/c	1.6	5	Metro blue	Del mileage	11,995												
2009	59	Astra Active	1.4	5	Black sapphire	Del mileage	11,995												
2009	59	Astra Sri	1.6	5	Black sapphire	Del mileage	12,995												
CORSA										VECTRA									
Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£				
2006	56	Corsa Sri+ A/c	1.2	3	Black sapphire	41,800	5,995	2005	55	Vectra Sri	1.8	5	Blue	35,950	5,995				
2008	08	Corsa VXR Nav	1.6	3	Flame red	11,580	13,995	2006	06	Vectra elite CDTi (150)	1.9D	5	Black Sapphire	38,125	7,995				
2008	57	Corsa Design Auto	1.4	3	Star silver	34,500	7,995	2006	56	Vectra Life CDTi A/c	1.9D	5	Black	27,780	7,495				
2008	08	Corsa Breeze	1.2	3	Star silver	12,220	7,995	2007	57	Vectra CDTi Elite (150ps)	1.9D	5	Black sapphire	44,510	9,495				
2008	58	Corsa Sri CDTi A/c	1.3D	5	Star silver	17,750	9,495	2008	08	Vectra Design	1.8	4	Panacotta	25,050	8,995				
2009	09	Corsa Club Auto A/c	1.4	5	Air blue	3,250	9,995	2008	08	Vectra Sri	1.8	5	Black sapphire	27,800	8,995				
2009	09	Corsa Club Auto A/c	1.4	5	Black sapphire	9,670	9,995	2008	58	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	15,390	9,295				
2009	09	Corsa Active	1.2	5	Silver lightening	6,520	8,995												
INSIGNIA & SIGNUM										ZAFIRA									
Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£				
2009	58	Insignia Elite Auto Nav	2.0	5	Star silver	6,300	18,995	2006	56	Zafira Club	1.6	5	Metro blue	40,250	7,795				
2009	09	Insignia Tourer Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	9,300	13,995	2007	57	Zafira Sri CDTi	1.9D	5	Metro blue	31,670	11,995				
2009	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusive CDTi 1.9D	1.9D	5	Technical grey	5,300	16,995	2009	09	Zafira Exclusive	1.8	5	Star silver	3,725	12,995				
								2009	09	Zafira Sri X P CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	3,780	16,495				
DUE SOON										DO YOU?									
Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£	Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£				
2003	53*	Corsa Design	1.2	5	Spearmint silver	43,000	3,495	2006	06	Meriva Active MTA	1.6	5	Metro blue	32,000	6,495				
2006	56	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Flame red	37,000	7,995	2005	55	Astra Design Sports Hatch	1.6	5	Star silver	42,000	7,495				
2007	07	Corsa Design CDTi	1.2	3	Flame red	38,000	6,995	2007	07	Astra Design CDTi Estate Auto	1.9	5	Silver lightening	18,000	9,495				
2007	06	Meriva Active MTA	1.6	5	Metro blue	32,000	6,495	2007	57	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	16,800	10,495				
2007	07	Astra Design CDTi	1.2	3	Flame red	38,000	6,995	2007	57	Astra VRX	2.0	3	Arden blue	24,000	13,995				

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What Car? magazine has given the new Superb Estate an excellent write-up in its first review, calling the car "big, comfortable, plush and fine value".

The magazine was particularly impressed by the value-for-money offered by the Superb Estate, saying it's, "cracking value and undercutts the equivalent Mondeo Estate by thousands."



Octavia or Fabia. Happy Scrapping.

No VAT. Ends soon. Don't miss out.

We've reduced the prices of all Fabia and Octavia until 31st March 2010, which means it's like not having to pay the VAT. That's a saving of up to £2,110.43[†] on a Fabia and £3,388.30[†] on an Octavia.



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Škoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

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Škoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 22,473. £7,495

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Finished in Adriatic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £4,995

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 2-Door Convertible

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SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDI PD SE (130 BHP) 5-Door MPV

Finished in Pearl Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 92,500 miles. £6,295

SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12v Reference Sport 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 40,055 miles. £6,295

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v Design 5-Door Estate

Finished in Metro Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth - Leather interior, 29,700 miles. £6,495

Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 16v 5-Door Hatchback

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Peugeot 307 CC 2.0 16V 180

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 32,747 miles. £7,795

SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDI PD Styline 5-Door Hatchback

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Finished in Royal Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 17,376 miles. £4,295

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Offer available on all Fabia and Octavia models ordered before 31st March 2010 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras and is equivalent of the VAT applicable at the time. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. [†]Savings shown relate to RRP's of the Fabia Scout 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp and the Octavia L&K estate 2.0 TDI PD 140bhp DSG. Excludes the channel islands. Prices are accurate at time of print. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government's scrappage scheme.*£2,500 saving off the RRP is available across the full Škoda range with up to an additional £1,000 off the RRP on selected Octavia models dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government scrappage incentive criteria. The Government scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 29th February 2010 when traded-in against a new car subject to conditions. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer is subject to availability and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. At participating retailers only. Please see your local retailer for full terms and conditions. Prices are accurate at time of print. Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. *Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only.



PROPERTY NEWS

Families help out the younger generation instead of saving

PARENTS helping their children get on to the property ladder is the main reason behind the growing property market in the past ten months.

According to one investment advisor, they realise that putting their money into housing is likely to provide a better return than keeping it in the bank.

Stuart Law, chief executive officer at property investment advice group Assetz said: "Parents are coming to the conclusion they should perhaps be helping their children with this money, rather than seeing it languish in a bank account where there's no interest being paid."

More products entering the mortgage market, including higher loan-to-value deals, are also boosting the housing market, Mr Law continued. He predicted five per cent growth for the property market this year, adding that it is dealing with the risks still present.

Figures from the National Association of Estate Agents revealed that the percentage of sales made to first-time buyers increased from 19 per cent in December 2009 to 23 per cent last month.

We're optimistic about repaying the mortgage

RESEARCH by The Co-operative Bank Mortgages has discovered that 62 per cent of the UK's population hopes to become mortgage-free by the time they reach the age of 50.

Either through over-paying on their mortgages or taking advantage of low interest rate deals, 52 per cent of homeowners believed that by becoming mortgage free their lives would be better.

Continuing in their findings, The Cooperative Bank also revealed:

- 52 per cent would take more holidays
- 31 per cent would turn their attention to saving more for retirement
- 27 per cent would change their working lives by either quitting work or reducing their hours to part-time

And looking at homeowners methods for achieving this goal, they appear to be on the right track.

Whilst 31 per cent of those surveyed cited that they aimed to reduce the term of their mortgage through overpaying every month, a further 21 per cent planned to take advantage of the low interest rate environment.



Part-exchange to secure your dream

■ BY NICK AMES

RELOCATION from town to country continues to be an attractive option and experts say such moves are set to increase as the market picks up.

One couple who recently took such action are Paul and Marilyn Jarvis.

They lived in a modern, three-bedroom detached house in Hawkinge, near Folkestone, but wanted to make a move to a real country village, so that their future life was settled in a home that was perfect for their needs.

"We have lived in Hawkinge for many years but there has recently been a lot of new building which has changed the character of the area greatly and we wanted to move to a new environment where we could put down roots for the future" said Paul.

The couple marketed their home at the same time as looking for their dream property but it was several months before they found exactly what they wanted – in the village of Goodnestone.

Dream

"At the time we found this lovely development of new homes on the edge of the village, we had still not sold our own home so it was a relief to know that having found the home we wanted to buy, that we were not going to lose it through lack of a sale on our own property," said Paul.

"The Part Exchange Scheme was very efficient and fair and saved us an estate agency fee. Within a few weeks we were packing up and moving."

What caught the attention of Paul and Marilyn was Hillreed's FitzWalter's Meadow a development offering a choice of homes, all architecturally designed specifically to reflect



HAPPY MOVERS: Paul and Marilyn Jarvis took advantage of the Part Exchange Scheme when buying their home

the local vernacular, which is exceptional.

Added Paul: "The location fulfilled exactly what we had been looking for. We were equally pleased with the quality of build of the homes – the wonderful, 'cottagey' feel, the well planned and beautifully presented kitchen and bathrooms and the overall excitement of finding a home that was truly different.

Hillreed Homes have four properties remaining at FitzWalter's Meadow in Boyes

Lane. There is a three bedroom mid terraced house with car port and carpets already fitted for £229,950. There is also another three bedroom mid terrace house with greater living space plus parking at £244,950.

A four bedroom end of terrace house with car port and carpets already fitted is on the market for £299,950. Finally, plot seven offers 2,430 sq ft of living space and is a three storey detached house with garage for £529,950.

Prospective tenants warned over deposit scam

AN increasingly widespread scam is targeting the buy-to-let sector – and it involves prospective tenants who are conned into sending deposits or money transfers to confidence tricksters posing as landlords.

A growing number of would-be tenants looking to find rooms and flats for rent in newspaper classifieds or online later discover the rental unit in question does not even exist.

Prospective tenants are told the landlord of a given property is overseas and as such, can-

not show the flat or room in question, until the potential applicant proves their good financial standing by sending a "secure" money transfer to a close friend or family member.

The con artist posing as a landlord then asks the prospective tenant to forward a copy of the transaction receipt

However without the tenant being aware, this document contains information which is often enough to allow the confidence trickster to actually collect the transferred amount,

before the proper recipient has a chance to access the funds.

Citizens Advice noted that anyone looking to rent a home should realize that legitimate landlords will not ask prospective tenants to make a deposit before actually seeing the property in question.

But people have fallen victim to the scam, including a student who reportedly lost £1,800 after sending a transfer for a rental flat she had seen advertised on the internet.

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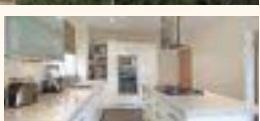
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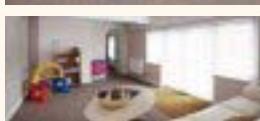
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• 5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION

• SHOWER ROOM
• 2 EN-SUITES
• 1 BED DETACHED ANNEX
• COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS
REF: Prestige_598935



Iwade
• 5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
• REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT
• 1 BEDROOM ANNEX
• APPROX 26FT LOUNGE
REF: Prestige_598985

Walderslade
• EXECUTIVE DETACHED HOUSE
• 4 BEDROOMS
• VILLAGE LOCATION
• EN-SUITE

• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• STUDY
• DOUBLE GARAGE
REF: Prestige_598975

Hempstead
• DETACHED HOME
• 4 BEDROOMS
• LARGE ENTRANCE HALL
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM

• LOUNGE DINING ROOM
• CLOAK ROOM & UTILITY ROOM
• INTEGRAL GARAGE
• INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
REF: Prestige_600735



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- MODERN KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN
- NO FORWARD CHAIN

£142,500
REF: Walderslade_62139S



Gillingham
- 2 BEDROOM
- MAISONETTE
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- POTENTIAL FOR OFF ROAD PARKING (STUPP)



- OWN GARDEN
- NO CHAIN
- GROUND FLOOR
- NO THROUGH ROAD

£110,000
REF: Rainham_62292S



Gillingham **TO LET £995pcm**
- 4 BEDROOM TERRACED HOME
- FURNISHED
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- IDEAL FOR STUDENTS

REF: inst-331



Walderslade
- 3 BEDROOM HOUSE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- CLOAKROOM



- POPULAR LOCATION
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- NO FORWARD CHAIN
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING

£134,000
REF: Walderslade_61519S



Gillingham
- 3 BEDROOMS
- TERRACE HOUSE
- 1 RECEPTION ROOM
- CONSERVATORY



- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- POPULAR LOCATION

£169,995
REF: Rainham_62027S



Kingfisher Meadow **TO LET £750pcm**
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOM APARTMENT
- INTEGRATED KITCHEN
- LOUNGE WITH BALCONY
- ALLOCATED PARKING FOR 1 CAR

REF: inst-338



Chatham
- STARTER HOME
- 1 DOUBLE BEDROOM
- 1 RECEPTION ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING

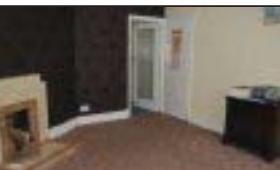


- POPULAR LOCATION
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- WELL PRESENTED
- NO FORWARD CHAIN

£112,000
REF: Walderslade_59947S



Gillingham
- TERRACE HOUSE
- 2 BEDROOM
- NO CHAIN
- IN NEED OF FINISHING OFF



- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- MOSTLY DOUBLE GLAZED
- 1 RECEPTION ROOM
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING

£129,995
REF: Rainham_61646S



Sittingbourne **TO LET £695pcm**
- 1 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW
- FITTED KITCHEN
- BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER BATH
- INTERNAL VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

REF: inst-299



Frindsbury
- 3 BEDROOM SEMI TOWN HOUSE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- LOUNGE
- MASTER BEDROOM EN-SUITE



- CLOAKROOM
- DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- WELL PRESENTED
- COURTYARD GARDEN

£249,995
REF: Walderslade_61412S



Rainham
- TERRACED HOME
- 2 BEDROOMS
- 1 RECEPTION ROOM
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM



Guide Price £150,000 - £160,000
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARAGE EN BLOC TO REAR
- POPULAR AREA

REF: Rainham_61622S



Rainham **TO LET £500pcm**
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOM APARTMENT
- LOUNGE / KITCHEN
- BATHROOM WITH WHITE SUITE
- POPULAR LOCATION

REF: inst-318



Cliffe Woods
- DETACHED CHALET BUNGALOW
- 4 BEDROOM
- FAMILY ROOM
- 3 RECEPTIONS



Guide Price £410,000 - £420,000
- DRESSING ROOM
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- UTILITY ROOM
- CLOAKROOM

REF: Walderslade_61436S



Gillingham
- SEMI DETACHED EDWARDIAN PROPERTY
- 3 / 4 BEDROOMS
- 2 FURTHER LOFT ROOMS
- 2/3 RECEPTIONS



Price Range £275,000 - £295,000
- SOME ORIGINAL FEATURES
- LARGE GARDEN
- VIEWS OVER GOLF COURSE
- SOUGHT AFTER ROAD

REF: Rainham_61642S



Chatham **TO LET £625pcm**
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOM HOME
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- BATHROOM WITH WHITE SUITE
- REAR GARDEN

REF: inst-322



Chatham
- 2 BEDROOM TERRACED
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- DINING AREA



- LOUNGE
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- DOUBLE CHAMBERED CELLAR
- POPULAR LOCATION

£125,000
REF: Walderslade_62977S



Sittingbourne
- ONE BEDROOM DEBUT HOME
- LOUNGE DINER
- REFITTED KITCHEN
- JULIET BALCONY



GUIDE PRICE £85,000 - £95,000
- ACCOMMODATION OVER 2 FLOORS
- ALLOCATED PARKING
- COMMUNAL GARDENS
- INTERNAL VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

REF: Rainham_60563S



Gillingham **TO LET £695pcm**
- 3 BEDROOM TERRACED PROPERTY
- LOUNGE / KITCHEN / DINER
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS
- INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

REF: inst-337

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Princes Park
- 3 BEDROOM END OF TERRACE
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- CLOAKROOM



£139,995
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- POPULAR LOCATION
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- NO FORWARD CHAIN

REF: Walderslade_60140S



Gillingham
- 3 BEDROOMS
- TERRACE HOUSE
- 1 RECEPTION ROOM
- CONSERVATORY



£169,995
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- POPULAR LOCATION

REF: Rainham_62027S



Rainham TO LET £850pcm
- 4 BEDROOM SEMI DET HOME
- LOUNGE / DINER WITH OAK FLOORING
- FAMILY BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER BATH
- GARDEN AND GARAGE EN-BLOC

REF: Inst-307



Rochester
- NEW PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT
- 4/5 DETACHED EXECUTIVE HOMES
- 6 PLOTS AVAILABLE
- GAMES ROOMS/FAMILY ROOMS



£420,000
- UTILITY ROOM
- DOUBLE GARAGES
- FAR REACHING COUNTRY VIEWS
- ENSUITES & BALCONIES

REF: Walderslade_60992S



Rainham
- SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW
- 3 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- KITCHEN



Guide Price £250,000 £275,000
- CLOAKROOM
- GARAGE & DRIVE
- APPROX 250FT GARDEN
- NO CHAIN

REF: Rainham_62427S



Walderslade Woods TO LET £995pcm
- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- KITCHEN / DINER
- "L" SHAPED LOUNGE
- REAR GARDEN AND GARAGE

REF: Inst-335



Rainham
- 3 BEDROOM DETACHED
- 2/3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- SEMI RURAL LOCATION



£270,000
- LARGE GARDEN
- DRIVE FOR SEVERAL VEHICLES
- COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS
- DOUBLE GLAZING

REF: Rainham_60591S



Maidstone
- CONVERSION APARTMENT
- 2 BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE
- SASH WINDOWS



OIEO £130,000
- WELL PRESENTED
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- TOWN CENTRE

REF: Walderslade_61150S



Rainham TO LET £695pcm
- 2 / 3 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW
- KITCHEN / DINING ROOM
- BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER BATH
- GARAGE - POPULAR LOCATION

REF: 43913

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- Double glazing

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- Double glazing and central heating

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Rochester

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- Lounge, kitchen, family room
- Three bedrooms, rear garden

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Rochester

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- Gas fired central heating,
- Double glazing, off street parking

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Rochester

- Two bedroom Victorian terrace
- Two receptions, Central heating
- Double glazing, Well presented

Offers in excess of £120,000

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Chatham

- Two bedroom terrace house
- Two reception rooms
- Gas fired central heating, garden

£119,995

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Gillingham

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- No forward chain, Double glazing
- Gas central heating

£115,000

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Gillingham

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Offers in the region of £220,000

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- glazing and central heating

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- Double glazing & central heating, garage

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- Four bedroom terrace family home
- Downstairs w.C., upstairs bathroom
- Double glazing and central heating

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Rochester | Price Range £130,000 - £150,000

- End of terrace family house, 3 bedrooms
- Kitchen and Bathroom, Cloakroom
- Lounge/Dining Room, Village Location

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Rochester | Price Range: £90,000 - £110,000

- One bedroom flat
- Allocated Parking
- There is no forward chain

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Gillingham | Price Range: £80,000 - £90,000

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Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 5th March 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP

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Closing date: Friday 5 March 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 5th March 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester,

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For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards

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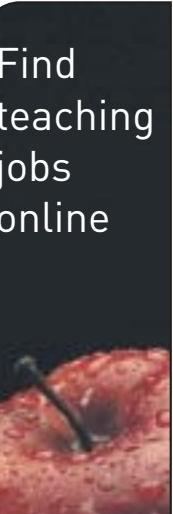
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DOUBLE DEFEAT: Medway (red/yellow) lost to Folkestone in league and cup at the weekend

FOOTBALL



CONGESTION: Chatham Town (in red) endured another postponement on Saturday

Weather ensures the Chats are left kicking their heels

CHATHAM Town manager Alex O'Brien was left frustrated once again as his side were without a game last weekend as their trip to Corinthian Casuals was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

The conditions have severely disrupted the league for almost three months, leaving the Chats with 13 games still to play before the end of April. Although his side are better off than some clubs in the division, the continuing problems are a source of dismay for the Chats boss.

He said: "Everyone's in the same boat but it just seems to be going on and on, we're getting into March and games are still in doubt. That puts pressure on squads to play three times a weekend, it's a big ask."

Offer

Elsewhere O'Brien was unhappy after new signing Tommy Osborne was tempted away by Thamesmead Town without making a single appearance.

The defender signed last week after a brief spell out of the game. But before he played for his new club, Ryman North side Thamesmead Town made an improved offer.

O'Brien was disappointed with the loss, but admitted with the budget he had there was always a risk of losing players.

He said: "Oz [Tommy Osborne] is a pal of mine and was going to help me out. He'd had no phone calls for two months but then all of a sudden the Ryman League bulletin came out saying he'd signed for us and he gets calls."

"In the current climate I've got no problem with players getting as much as they can. I rang Thamesmead and we're fine, we both could have done things the right way but there are no problems."

Sittingbourne were due to visit Maidstone Road last night, log on to www.yourmedway.co.uk for the details. They host Whyteleafe this Saturday.

FOOTBALL

Double blow for battered Medway

RUGBY

Folkestone 25 Medway 12

MEDWAY were made to pay for a poor first-half at New Burlington Road as they slumped to a defeat despite a strong display after the break.

The home side ran in 25 unanswered points to go in at half-time in total control. Throwing caution to the wind, Medway conjured a response in the second-half, but the deficit was too great to make up and they fell to a third successive loss.

With the poor recent weather postponing so many fixtures, the clubs agreed Saturday's result would count for both the league and Kent Plate.

With key players missing, Medway fielded their youngest side this season, including debutants Alex Waterman and David Gwilliam.

The hosts started strongly, dominating territory and possession. Helped by some sloppy defending from Medway, the Stones went in at half-time 25-0 up following three tries.

The second-half was all Medway, who produced a spirited comeback to put Folkestone on the back foot. Two tries and a conversion saw them almost halve the deficit, but despite a host of errors from a rattled home side, Medway were unable to add to their score.

Although it was another defeat, the visitors' young side had plenty of positives to take from the game. They face another tough task this weekend with the visit of league leaders Heathfield & Waldron to Priestfields on Saturday.

ICE HOCKEY



DEFEAT: Invicta Dynamos suffered a second loss at the hands of Cardiff this season despite a quick-fire double from Peter Vaisanen (left) and Elliot Andrews (right)



Pictures ADRIANLINE

Cardiff put a halt on the Dynamos' relentless charge

ICE HOCKEY

■ BY YOURMEDWAY REPORTER

Cardiff ENL Devils 6

Invicta Dynamos 3

INVICTA Dynamos' poor record away to their title rivals continued last weekend as they crashed to a bad tempered defeat in Wales for the second time in two months.

The score line was a little harsh on the visitors, who conceded twice late on after withdrawing their netminder in search of an equaliser. It did though add to a concerning pattern which has seen the Mos lose on both their trips to Cardiff and Bracknell Hornets this season, which has prevented them from wrapping up the National League South 1 title early.

The Mos travelled to Wales without star import Nolan Boike, who is unlikely to return this season after scans on his hamstring injury revealed more damage than initially feared. Influential defenceman Ryan Giles is also a long-term absentee after breaking his leg in a car accident last week.

The Devils, who knew they had to win the

game to stand any chance of lifting the title, made an excellent start as Steve Fisher fired them ahead inside three minutes.

The score remained the same into the second period, when Gareth Dixon doubled the hosts' lead. Unused to trailing for long spells, the Mos finally roused themselves with a rapid double to level the scores. Elliot Andrews and Peter Vaisanen scored within 30 seconds of each other to briefly turn the game on its head, but Cardiff re-established their two-goal lead before the second interval.

Andy Smith got the Mos within one when he fired home with 12 minutes remaining, but the closing minutes were dominated by confrontations all over the ice. Fisher's late connection with the Mos netminder Joe White saw him scrap with Anthony Lennon to begin a fractious climax to the game.

The Mos withdrew White to put on an extra skater, but the ploy backfired as Fisher twice shot into the unguarded net to make it 6-3.

The game finished with scuffles which saw Tim Smith, Grant Baxter and Mark Williams all involved, with the latter earning a costly suspension.

Despite the defeat the Mos remain in control of their own destiny in the race for the league title, two points clear of Bracknell and four ahead of Cardiff, both of whom have played more games. It sets up a crunch meeting with the Hornets at the Gillingham Ice Bowl this Sunday, where the visitors must win to keep their title hopes intact.

Face-off is at 5.15pm.

Miller making the most of his second chance

FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

ADAM Miller has his sights on proving the boo boys wrong and earning himself a new Gillingham contract after returning from exile to enjoy a run back in the first-team.

The 28-year-old's time at Gillingham appeared to be over in the autumn when, after a spell out of the side, he moved on loan to Dagenham & Redbridge. While at the League Two club he went public to say he felt his time at Priestfield was over and wanted to make his loan move permanent.

The transfer never materialised and after a poor run of results Gills boss Mark Stimson handed the midfielder his chance back in the side. Miller is now looking to secure a new deal, something he never thought possible a couple of months ago.

"I was on the bench, coming on every now and then I wasn't even on the bench, I was in the stands, I wasn't travelling to away games with the squad," he said.

"When I did the interview it was how I felt at the time and if you asked anyone at the time if my time at the club was done, they would have said yes."

"The way I'm looking at it now, I'm playing for a contract. I'd love to stay on and do better with Gillingham, I've never said anything different."

Stimson turned to Miller earlier this month



IN FROM THE COLD: Adam Miller is back in the Gillingham side and targeting a new contract

Picture ADY KERRY

when the season was at its lowest ebb. The Gills boss was facing growing discontent on the terraces, which reached its most vociferous during a defeat at home to Tranmere Rovers.

Miller has always divided opinion among fans but he felt the full force of their wrath as he was brought on as a substitute. But the lowest point was not getting booted by thousands of supporters. It came in January when it was suggested the remaining six months of his contract could be settled, allowing him to become a free agent.

The thought of leaving under a cloud did not appeal. He said: "I didn't want to be paid as a professional footballer to sit in the stands

every Saturday, I want to play and earn my money. It was a dent to your pride, I wasn't wanted so it felt like my only option. It's why I pushed it away."

"Since I've come back I've felt a total freshness about it, maybe there was a bit of hostility there between everyone, ups and downs being in and out the team, maybe it was what was needed."

"The gaffer did always say he'd never shut the door on me and to be fair he's stayed true to his word. I'm so grateful I want to take it with both hands and achieve something by staying up in a great league."



TEAM TALK

**with Gills skipper
BARRY FULLER**

'Break couldn't have come at worse time'

THE last few days have not been good either for me personally or the team as a whole.

As a squad we need all our players fit no matter what position we're in. Any injury at this stage of the season is going to be hard because there are a few important games coming up, so breaking my arm against Leyton Orient last week was a huge blow.

I've been really pleased with my form this season, which I think has been consistent. I just wanted to play every game as best as I can but obviously that can't happen now. It's disappointing because there's only nine or ten weeks of the season left, I'm probably going to be unable to play for half that or maybe even a bit longer.

It's really gutting to get this far and pick up an injury when it seemed like a nothing challenge. It was just a block. Normally you have to fall awkwardly to break your arm like that, it's rare to get it from a whack.

I thought I heard it crack but I tried to play on. When I was running it didn't feel right, it felt floppy. I was trying to convince myself it wasn't broken, there was no lump so the club doctor didn't know if it was broken.

I've been sitting around moping about it, I hate missing training and come Saturday afternoon when I'm not there it hits you as a player. I've just got to stay positive and try and get back as soon as possible.

The team also had a disappointing trip to Carlisle, losing 2-0, but results around us seemed to go our way so we still have a bit of a cushion on the bottom four. Hopefully our home form will hold for Saturday's game against Huddersfield.

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STAND-IN SKIPPER: Midfielder Danny Jackman

He told the club's website: "Chris Palmer did okay but it's not until someone's out of the team that you realise how much they will be missed."

"With Barry Fuller that penalty wouldn't have happened in the second-half, I'm 100 per cent sure of that. He wouldn't have got past Fuller that easily."

The defeat left the Gills two points above the bottom four ahead of Saturday's home game against Huddersfield.

LEAGUE TABLES

(BEFORE LAST NIGHT'S FIXTURES)

COCOA-COLA LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Norwich City	34	22	6	6	+34	72
2 Leeds United	33	19	10	4	+30	67
3 Charlton Athletic	34	17	12	5	+21	63
4 Colchester United	33	18	8	7	+17	62
5 Swindon Town	32	16	12	4	+15	60
6 Huddersfield Town	33	16	10	7	+25	58
7 Millwall	33	16	10	7	+15	58
8 Stevenage Borough	33	15	4	14	0	49
9 Bradford Rovers	32	14	3	15	-8	45
10 Walsall	33	11	10	12	-2	43
11 Southend United	31	13	12	6	+21	41
12 Yeovil Town	34	10	11	13	-3	41
13 Carlisle United	33	10	10	13	-3	40
14 Brentford	30	9	11	10	0	38
15 Leyton Orient	33	9	11	13	-6	38
16 Brighton & Hove A	33	9	10	14	-11	37
17 Hartlepool United	33	9	8	16	-10	35
18 Gillingham	34	8	10	16	-13	34
19 Tranmere Rovers	32	9	6	17	-23	33
20 Southend United	33	8	8	17	-13	32
21 Oldham Athletic	31	8	8	15	-14	32
22 Exeter City	33	7	10	16	-15	31
23 Wycombe Wanderers	34	6	10	18	-25	28
24 Stockport County	32	5	8	19	-32	23

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Croydon Athlete	26	16	6	4	+31	54
2 Folkestone Inv (-10)	27	19	5	3	+21	52
3 Worthing	28	16	3	9	+16	51
4 Fleet Town	28	15	4	9	+17	49
5 Walton & Hersham	28	14	6	8	+10	48
6 Godalming Town	25	15	3	12	+15	45
7 Burgess Hill Town	28	11	9	8	+7	42
8 Sittingbourne	25	12	5	8	+16	41
9 Horsham YMCA	30	10	11	9	-7	41
10 Leatherhead	26	11	4	11	+9	37
11 Dulwich Hamlet	28	9	10	9	0	37
12 Ramsgate	28	9	10	9	-2	37
13 Merstham	29	10	7	12	-10	36
14 Chatham Town	29	11	3	15	-12	36
15 Metropolitan Police	26	9	8	9	+10	35
16 Whyteleafe	28	10	5	13	+2	35
17 Corinthian Casuals	28	10	3	15	-11	33
18 Chipstead	29	8	6	15	-13	30
19 Walton Casuals	29	6	6	17	-18	24
20 Whistable Town	26	7	2	17	-33	23
21 Eastbourne Town	29	4	10	15	-29	22
22 Ashford Town	26	4	8	14	-33	20

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

1 Faversham Town	21	17	2	2	+39	53
2 Herne Bay	17	13	1	3	+19	40
3 Hythe Town	16	9	4	3	+26	31
4 Beckenham Town	19	9	4	6	+12	31
5 Erith & Belvedere	20	9	4	7	-2	31
9 Deal Town	16	7	4	5	+3	25
10 Sporting Bengal Utd	23	7	4	12	-27	25
11 Hollingbury Wells	19	5	7	7	-6	22
12 Holmesdale	18	6	2	10	-3	20
13 Northgate Sports	15	5	1	9	-8	16
14 Fisher	20	3	4	13	-25	12
15 Corinthian	20	3	3	14	-25	12
16 Loddwood	18	1	7	10	-21	10

FIXTURES (Saturday): Coca-Cola Football League One: Gillingham v Huddersfield Town; Ryman Division One South: Chatham Town v Whyteleafe

STAND-IN SKIPPER: Midfielder Danny Jackman

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GILLS BOSS Gills boss Mark Stimson on the impact of losing skipper Barry Fuller to a broken arm

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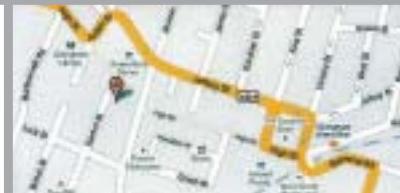


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